

AC. 44944

COUNTY BOROUGH
OF WEST BROMWICH



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

HUGH BRYANT, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

1972

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE 1972 (as at 31st December)

HEALTH AND HYGIENE COMMITTEE

Chairman :	Councillor R. J. Ashby
Deputy Chairman :	Councillor Mrs. S. Salter
Alderman Mrs. L. Peckover	Councillor N. F. Gibbons
Councillor T. C. Beeson	Councillor A. Handley
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Councillor D. W. Foster	Councillor J. Whitehouse

Co-opted Members

Dr. D. Saklatvala
Dr. W. J. Walkden
Mr. J. O. Robins
Dr. J. F. Milligan

PRINCIPAL STAFF (as at 31st December, 1972)

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	H.O.M. Bryant, O.B.E., M.B.,Ch.B., F.F.C.M.,D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health	Margaret A. Shields, M.B.,Ch.B.,M.F.C.M.,D.P.H.
Senior Medical Officer of Health	Esther T. Riley, M.B., Ch.B.
Medical Officers in Department	Sharda H. Khandheria, M.D.(Gujerat)., D.Obst. Gwendolen R. Harris, M.B., Ch.B.
Chest Physician (Part-time)	C.W.D. Cole, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Administrative Assistant	J.M. Hillier, D.M.A.
Director of Nursing Services	Miss. M. Adams, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.
Area Nursing Officer :	
Health Visiting & District Nursing	Mrs. M. W. Woolley, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. Certificate
Area Nursing Officer :	
Midwifery	Mrs. L. Jacques, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.
Principal Dental Officer	J.B.C. Cuzner, L.D.S. (who is the Principal School Dental Officer)
Chief Chiropodist	Constance M. Edge, M.C.H.S., S.R.C.H.
Chief Ambulance Officer	L. Jasper

OUTSIDE ESTABLISHMENTS (as at 31st December, 1972)

Health

Health Centre :	Birch Street, Tipton
Infant Welfare Centres:	Boulton Road Friar Park Road Whitehall Road Tanhouse Avenue Bratt Street Hill Top Hill Lane Jervoise Lane Redwood Road St. Mary's Hall, Charlemont Farm Birch Street, Tipton. Central, Tipton Ocker Hill St. Michaels Hall, Burnt Tree

Infant Welfare Centres Continued :—

Mesty Croft, Wednesbury
Albert Street, Wednesbury
Chapel Lane, Great Barr

Field Centres :—

Health Centre, Tipton
20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury
20, Heath Lane, West Bromwich

FOREWORD

This annual report covers the current year 1972. As in previous years information is given on the vital statistics, the local health services, and the other activities of the Health Department, together with the annual report of the Chief Public Health Inspector containing information on the sanitary circumstances of the area and those services for which he is responsible.

Vital Statistics

The population of the Borough is estimated to be declining slowly. The mid year figure for 1972 being 165,440 compared with 166,620 at the time of the 1971 census.

The crude birth rate at 14.8 per thousand population shows a fall from 17 in 1971 and is the same as that for England and Wales in 1972. If this however is adjusted to take account of the differences in the age and sex structure between West Bromwich and England and Wales an adjusted figure of 15.7 is obtained. The excess of births over deaths is 543. The still birth rate (14 per thousand live and still births) and the infant mortality rate at 22 per thousand live births compare unfavourably with 12 and 17 respectively for England and Wales in 1972. Illegitimacy accounts for 8% of births compared with 9% nationally and 6.9% locally in 1971.

It is not possible to draw conclusions from the rate of deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age since the number of occurrences was only 8 and comparing rate with England and Wales is therefore rather meaningless on a single year's experience. The neonatal death rate (infants under four weeks) is higher than the national average.

Although the crude death rate at 11.5 per thousand population is below the figure for 12.1 for England and Wales in 1972, adjustment because of the differing age and sex structures gives an adjusted rate of 14.5 which is considerably higher than that for England and Wales. Over the year the death rate for chronic bronchitis has remained above that for England and Wales.

Local Health Services

As is to be expected with the lower prevailing birth rate local

authority ante-natal clinics have continued to decline in importance and doctors in general practice now have midwives attached and give extensive care in their own surgeries.

Child Health Clinics remain however popular and there is a welcome increase in the work of developmental examination of children at intervals during the pre-school period. The sale of baby food continues more as a convenience to mothers than for any other purpose since the prices are approximately those of food sold commercially, particularly in supermarkets.

In the nursing services the midwifery service, as expected with a lower birth rate, is not so hard pressed. However, early discharge from hospital and attendance at General Practitioners surgeries has meant little change in the total volume of work for the individual midwife. There is a strong impression that expectant mothers in West Bromwich do not seek medical and midwifery advice very early in pregnancy. The still birth rate is higher than that for England and Wales and improvement in performance in regard to maternity care seems possible. Maternity care is not of course a matter solely for midwives and doctors but for the patient herself who, by booking early and taking the advice offered, has a most important part to play in safeguarding the future well being of her baby.

The home nursing service has been pressed. The number of visits rose from 76,639 in 1971 to 91,441 in 1972 with a staff rise only from 24 to 26 of effective staff. Recruitment of nurses was difficult and the sickness rate among nurses was fairly high. A small efficient and very professional staff is trying to maintain a full service of high standards with difficulty. In brief the quality is good but the service too small.

A somewhat similar situation occurs in Health visiting — too few staff and too much to do. In this case however the failure to provide an adequate service does not become very obvious in the short term as is the case in District Nursing but in the long term it is probable that figures such as the low immunisation rates for example are not likely to improve unless there is an adequate number of Health Visitors in post.

It is difficult to evaluate numerically the effect of so few health visitors, for the work is so variable in type but patients at all ages are

receiving less of a service than would be expected if adequate professional staff were available to be recruited.

Recent national suggestions in regard to the desirable staffing ratios would suggest that these are about double those in West Bromwich with regard to district nursing and health visiting.

The ambulance service is also pressed; there is an increase in patients carried and no corresponding increase in staff. Ambulance work is not attractive in terms of the hours worked to all but the enthusiastic and dedicated.

Chiropody and dental services function satisfactory but again are limited by the number of professional staff that can be recruited. Cervical cytology is limited in scope by the limitation of laboratory facilities to examine specimens in the hospital which once again is a facet of a shortage of suitable trained staff (in this case in the hospital service). In the case of Family Planning this is an agency service and there is increasing usage as the years progress.

Infectious Disease

The report indicates no particular unusual occurrence. It probably under-estimates the amount of work done because there has been a considerable increase in regard to travellers from abroad from infected areas who have to be visited and have various specimens submitted for laboratory examinations so the spread of infection may be minimised.

Dr. Cole has contributed--and I must thank him--a full account of the situation in regard to tuberculosis and I am happy to note he has recorded a fall in the number of new cases notified.

The figures on venereal disease are obviously not an indication of the actual incidence which I suspect is much higher. These diseases are not notifiable and the figures depend on figures produced by clinics outside West Bromwich in allocating their patients by the home address given.

Environmental Health

I am indebted to Mr. S. Cayton, M.B.E., for this section of the report, which is also his Annual Report to Council. He has commented

extensively on the aspects of the environmental health, so I will limit my remarks to certain points that seem of particular importance.

He comments on the reduction of smoke and sulphur and it is gratifying to note this improvement. Nevertheless, atmospheric pollution remains a major problem in West Bromwich, and, as is pointed out, a reduction in smoke permits the uncovering of other pollutants. Few facts are known about the level of pollution by chemicals — especially metals — and the ascertainment of the facts on these and other pollutants seems the next step in the control of atmospheric pollution. Reference is made to pollution by odour — an acute problem in West Bromwich in need of technological solution as well as administrative action.

It is essential to have information that shows the level of pollution at different times and in different parts of the Borough. Such “monitoring” is expensive; it needs staff and laboratory examinations (some quite complex). To ameliorate pollution it is essential to establish its whereabouts and extent, to uncover unknown hazards and to assess the amount and frequency of known cases.

The improvement of houses is welcome but houses in multi-occupation remain a problem.

The problem of noise is receiving increasing attention and this again is a field in which measurements are needed on which action may subsequently be based.

The whole report shows how the public health inspector needs increasingly more scientific knowledge. He cannot however be an expert on so wide a variety of subjects and needs support. Moreover laboratory support is vital. At present through the Public Health Laboratory Service he has access freely to expert microbiology help of a high order, arranged on a national basis. On the chemical and physical side this does not exist on the same scale — there are of course Public Analysts for Food and Drugs — but expert assistance is equally necessary, through a full range of chemical and physical laboratories. Chemical investigations are as important as microbiological and equally complex in some cases. A need exists for a co-ordinated expert system of Public Health chemical and physical laboratories on a national scale.

The increasing emphasis on the scientific aspect has not diminished the need for control of "nuisances" (that attractive archaism that covers many irritations to the population). The public health inspectors started as a corps of "inspectors of nuisances". In recent years I think the importance of this function has been overlooked and the inspector on behalf of the public aggrieved should be able to take, within the law, the necessary action whether the cause occurs by action of a public authority or a private individual. This remains an important aspect of control of the environment, not to be overlooked in the face of the increasingly complex nature of public health inspection.

The principal legislative means is still the Public Health Act 1936, and it would seem very desirable to have consolidated legislation suited to the 1970's.

Other Health Services

Attention must be drawn to the considerable work — rising in amount — connected with advice on medical certificates for priority both for first tenancies but particularly for housing transfers. This consumes considerable time with little apparent result in terms of persons able to be housed by the Housing Department. The whole problem of housing resources compared with the expectations of the public has an effect on the Health Department in the vast demand for priority on production of medical certificates. The volume of this work is an indication of dissatisfaction with present accommodation rather than the incidence of serious disease. Each of these cases has to be considered and the work is consuming an increasing amount of time of the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, but not satisfying many applicants in view of the shortage of suitable and acceptable tenancies.

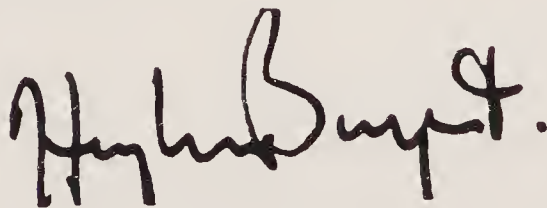
Conclusion

West Bromwich remains a town with unfavourable death rates — still birth rate, infant death rate and the adjusted death rate — in comparison with the national average. It is also a town with continuing problems of atmospheric pollution and of housing and has a population that is declining numerically slightly. In regard to the provision of services the most single outstanding problem is that of the difficulty of recruitment of professional staff of all types. This problem has been the same for many years and is not improving.

In this country (and overseas) there is an urgent need for developing some methods of measuring both the need and effectiveness of health services. The use of death rates is a relatively primitive measure of the health of the community and since resources of skilled manpower and money seem invariably less than the demand for service the development of an effective system of priorities must depend on an effective system of measuring need in the population and of effectiveness of the services. It has been aptly stated in regard to the National Health Services that it is "drowning in data but starved for information".

In 1974 major changes in the structure of the services take place. The Health Services (particularly those concerned with doctors and nurses and the professions supplementary to medicine) transfer to new health authorities but environmental services and the social services transfer to the new Sandwell local authority. It is easy to mistake a change in structure and organisation for an improvement in service. The former merely permits the latter but does not guarantee it will occur. It is to be hoped that the present enthusiasm for change will not be lost when the question of improvement to the new services is considered. There will be a need for very close collaboration between the services of the Health Authorities and the environmental and social services of the local authority and the development of this at all levels will be a problem for the next year or two.

Finally there are many to thank for the work in 1972. The Health and Hygiene Committee who have the responsibility for the services have invariably given courteous consideration to the problems and ideas arising from the department; my colleagues in the Health Services and in the Corporation services have been understanding, co-operative and interested and the staff of the Health Department itself has worked hard during 1972, thanks are due to all of these people and to many others for assistance during the year in regard to the services and also in production of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.O.M. Bryant'.

H.O.M. BRYANT,

Medical Officer of Health

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PART 1

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Vital Statistics

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1972

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH

The County Borough of West Bromwich is situated in South Staffordshire and is a manufacturing town principally engaged in foundry work and allied industries. The town is situated in the Midlands conurbation and has a number of residents who originally came from Asian and West Indian Countries.

Elevation above sea level :	347 to 569 feet (105.77 – 173.43 metres)
Geological formation	Consisting chiefly of shales, red sandstones and magnesium limestone. Coal seams are prevalent in certain areas.
Rainfall (inches) :	30.67
Area in acres (land and inland water) :	11,679 (4,726 hectares)
Population per acre :	14.0

New houses constructed, including flats 1972 :—

Local Authority	209
Private Enterprise	<u>322</u>
	<u>531</u>

Estimates number of houses in Borough as at 1st April, 1972	54,175
Rateable value as at the 1st April, 1972	£8,463,155
Rate at 1p in the £ estimated to produce at 1st April, 1972	£84,000

Vital Statistics

Population (estimated civilian population mid 1972)	165,440
(Sample Census 1966)	170,370
Census 1971 (preliminary)	166,620
Live Births :	
Males	1316
Females	1130
	2446
Live Births Rate (Per 1,000 population) :	14.8

Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) corrected	15.7
Comparability Factor (Births)	1.06
Ratio of Local Adjusted Birth Rate & National Rate	1.06
Illegitimate Live Births	190
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	8.0
Stillbirths	34
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	14.0
Total Live and Stillbirths	2480
Infant Deaths	55
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	22.0
Legitimate infant mortality rate (per 1,000 legitimate live births)	21.0
Illegitimate infant mortality rate (per 1,000 Illegitimate live births)	42.0
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births)	15.0
Early noe-natal (deaths under one week per 1,000 live babies)	12.0
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	25.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate (including abortion per 1,000 live and stillbirths)	Nil
Deaths :	
Males	1017
Females	886
	1903
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.5
Death Rate (corrected 1.26)	14.5
Ratio of Local Adjusted Death Rate to National Rate	1.20
Pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 population)	0.04
Cancer Deaths Rate (per 1,000 population)	3.0

England and Wales

Mid-year population	49,028,900
Birth rate	14.8
Death rate	12.1
Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births)	12.0
Infant mortality rate	17.0

Name and Address of Medical Officer of Health :

H.O.M. Bryant, O.B.E.,M.B.,Ch.B.,F.F.C.M.,D.P.H.
Health Department, West Bromwich.

Telephone : 021-588 4671 (Home : 021-357 5805)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The following figures show the estimated mid-year population in the Borough for each year since the census in 1951.

1951	87,981 (Census)	1963	97,710
1952	87,640	1964	97,600
1953	87,960	1965	98,040
1954	88,650	1966	171,760
1955	89,640	1966 (Sample Census 170,370)	
1956	90,720	1967	172,650
1957	93,380	1968	172,350
1958	93,380	1969	171,850
1959	93,590	1970	173,010
1960	93,780	1971	166,560
1961	96,041 (Census)	1971	166,620 (Census preliminary figure)
1962	97,050	1972	165,440

On 1st April 1966, the Borough boundaries were enlarged by the WEST MIDLANDS ORDER, 1965.

Births

There were 2,446 live births during the year to residents of West Bromwich, giving a birth rate of 14.8 per 1,000 population, and the number of births, and the birth rates for the last 10 years are shown in the following table. Of the total of 287 births (included in the above) to mothers of Asiatic, African or West Indian origin, 276 occurred in hospital and 11 at home.

Year	Number of Live Births	Birth Rate Per 1,000 Population
1961	1,817	18.9
1962	1,854	19.1
1963	1,891	19.4
1964	1,855	19.0
1965	1,782	18.1
1966	3,133	18.2
1967	3,105	18.0
1968	3,075	17.8
1969	2,969	17.3
1970	2,788	16.1
1971	2,835	17.0
1972	2,446	14.8

The Birth Rate in 1972 showed a fall on 1971.

There were 1316 boys and 1130 girls born in 1972 and of these 190 were illegitimate births, giving an illegitimate birth rate per 1,000 live births of 8.0 compared with 6.9 in 1971.

Stillbirths

The total number of stillbirths to West Bromwich residents was 34 giving a stillbirth rate of 14.0 per 1,000 live and stillbirths. The rate for England and Wales is 12.00.

Deaths

There were 1,903 deaths of West Bromwich residents (1,017 males and 886 females) during the year, 1139 of which occurred in persons aged 65 years and over. This gives a crude death rate per 1,000 population of 11.5. If this is corrected by use of the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General to take account of the age structure of the population in relation to that nationally, the figure is 14.5 compared with 14.7 for 1971.

The death rate (after correction to allow for differences between the age and sex structure of the population compared with the country as a whole) at 14.5, compares very unfavourably with England and Wales at 12.1.

The following table shows the principal causes of death over the last 10 years :—

Summary of the Principal causes of death for years 1963/1972

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Cancer	194	190	169	306	347	393	379	383	372	408
Heart Disease	231	259	298	574	568	527	570	520	603	656
Pneumonia	74	98	77	125	104	117	157	143	137	154
Bronchitis & other respiratory diseases	105	88	81	197	170	158	227	176	147	164
Vascular lesions	130	138	111	244	224	235	244	210	218	233
Tuberculosis:- Pulmonary	7	7	6	21	20	8	6	10	6	8
Non-Pulmonary	—	1	1	—	1	3	6	—	2	2

Deaths from Cancer

The following table gives details of the number of deaths, localisation of, and the rate per cent of total cancer deaths for certain specified sites of the body.

	No. of deaths during		Rate per cent of total Cancer deaths	
	1971	1972	1971	1972
Stomach	48	41	12.9	10.0
Lungs & Bronchus	89	126	23.9	30.9
Breast	36	43	9.8	10.6
Uterus	18	8	4.8	1.8
Others	181	190	48.6	46.7
	372	408	100.0	100.0

The following table shows the death rate per 1,000 population from this disease for the last seven years.

Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus

Year	Death rate per 1,000 Population
1966	0.50
1967	0.59
1968	0.59
1969	0.60
1970	0.68
1971	0.54
1972	0.76

Deaths from diseases of the respiratory system excluding Cancer of the Lung

The following table gives the number of deaths in age groups from diseases of the respiratory system in men and women during the year. The number of deaths of West Bromwich residents from pulmonary tuberculosis was 8 giving a pulmonary tuberculosis death rate of 0.04 per 1,000 population which compares with 0.03 for 1971.

	Respiratory Tuberculosis		Influenza		Pneumonia		Bronchus		Other Diseases Respiratory System		TOTALS	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	1	3	3
1 — 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
5 — 14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
15 — 24 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
25 — 34 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 44 years	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	2
45 — 54 years	1	1	2	—	6	2	11	1	—	—	20	4
55 — 64 years	3	—	2	—	10	4	22	4	4	2	41	10
65 — 74 years	1	—	5	—	27	17	46	12	3	1	82	30
75 years & over	—	1	4	5	42	38	27	17	1	4	74	65
Totals	6	2	13	5	89	65	106	34	12	9	226	115

Certain Causes of Death

It is obvious that cancer of the lung, cancer of the breast, cancer of the stomach, coronary thrombosis and bronchitis between them are responsible for many of the deaths. The latest provisional figures for England and Wales and for West Bromwich, given as rates per thousand population, are as follows :—

	England & Wales	West Bromwich
Cancer of the Lung	0.64	0.76
Cancer of the Breast	0.22	0.25
Cancer of the Stomach	0.25	0.24
Coronary Disease	3.3	2.66
Bronchitis	0.58	0.84

Attention is drawn to the high death rate from Bronchitis in comparison with the National figures. In comparing these rates, attention should be drawn to the size of England and Wales, compared with the County Borough of West Bromwich and to the difference that the operation of chance can make.

Infant Mortality

A total of 55 infants whose parents were normally resident in the Borough died during the year. This gives an infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 22.0. The equivalent rate for England and Wales is 18.00. Two illegitimate babies died. Of the total of 55 deaths 13 occurred in babies of Asiatic, African or West Indian parents.

The following table shows the infant deaths in age groups over the period of the last ten years:—

Infant Deaths

Year	Under 1 Month	1 – 3 Months	3 – 6 Months	6 – 9 Months	9 – 12 Months	Total	Infant death rate per 1,000 live births
1961	38	5	4	1	1	49	27
1962	27	9	8	2	1	47	25
1963	29	6	5	2	3	45	24
1964	22	5	6	2	1	36	19
1965	20	6	5	3	—	34	19
1966	35	7	8	5	2	57	18.1
1967	45	6	7	3	2	63	20.0
1968	34	7	8	4	2	55	17.8
1969	28	16	10	5	—	59	20.0
1970	42	10	7	—	2	61	22.0
1971	33	4	9	3	4	53	19.0
1972	36	9	7	2	1	55	22.0

This is a high infant mortality rate compared with 17.0 for England and Wales.

The following table shows the infant deaths from certain causes during the year.

Causes of Death	Under 1 Month	1 – 3 Months	3 – 6 Months	6 – 9 Months	9 – 12 Months	Total Under 12 Months
Other infective & Parasitic Diseases	2	—	1	1	—	4
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	—	—	—	—	—	—
Benign & Un-specified Neoplasms	1	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2	—	—	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory system	—	1	1	1	—	3
Other Diseases of Digestive System	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Anomalies	8	4	1	—	—	13
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	15	—	—	—	—	15
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	9	—	—	—	—	9
Symptoms & Ill Defined conditions	—	2	—	—	—	2
All other Accidents	—	1	1	—	—	2
Avitaminoses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebrovascular Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	36	9	7	2	1	55

Deaths Under Four Weeks of Age

There were 36 deaths of infants under 4 weeks, giving a neonatal mortality rate of 15.0 per 1,000 live births compared with 11.6 in 1971.

The following table shows the age at which death occurred during the period of the first month.

1st day	2nd day	3rd day	4th day	5th day	6th day	7th day	1—2 wks	2—3 wks	3—4 wks	Deaths Under 1 Month
16	3	5	3	—	1	1	5	2	—	36

Perinatal Mortality

The statistical device of a perinatal mortality rate is aimed at taking into account deaths occurring just before and just after the process of birth in an endeavour to give a total idea of the loss of infant life at the time of birth. Expressed statistically, it is as follows :—

$$\frac{(\text{Deaths in the first week of life} + \text{stillbirths}) \times 1,000}{\text{Total births (Both live and still)}}$$

The figure for West Bromwich this year is 25.0 compared with 25.6 in 1971. In view of the small number of children involved, infant mortality rates are unreliable and the perinatal death rate may give a better idea of the total wastage of infant life. The figure for England and Wales is 22.0.

To provide a comparison of the various rates involved in the consideration of perinatal mortality the following table gives information for each of the last six years.

Year	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1972	22.0	15.0	14.0	25.0
1971	19.0	11.6	15.6	25.6
1970	22.0	15.0	15.5	26.8
1969	20.0	9.4	18.0	27.0
1968	17.8	11.0	16.0	26.2
1967	20.0	11.9	16.0	28.0
1966	18.1	11.1	19.9	27.2

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths in pregnancy in 1972.

Suicide

Four deaths were due to suicide which compares with 7 in 1971. The age groups and sex of the persons concerned, together with the methods employed are shown in the following table :—

Deaths from Suicide	AGE GROUP					
	15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Diconal Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barbiturate Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	—
Hanging	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coal Gas Poisoning	—	—	—	—	1	—
Overdose of Drugs	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asprin Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drowning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Car Exhaust Fumes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	1	1	1	1	—

Motor Vehicle Accidents

Fourteen deaths were due to road accidents compared with 17 in 1971. The following table shows the age groups, sex, and types of accident :—

Types of Accident	AGE GROUP							
	0 – 14 years		15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Pedestrian Struck by Car/Van	1	—	—	—	—	2	3	—
Cycle/Lamp Standard	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Knocked down by reversing Ambulance	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Motor Cyclist / collided with Car	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pedestrian collided with Car	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Car/Lorry Collided	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Car in River	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	4	—	3	3	3	—

A further 26 deaths have been classified by the Register General as due to accident, 3 of which are known to have occurred in the home. Brief details are given in the following table :—

Deaths at Home	AGE GROUP							
	0 – 14 years		15 – 44 years		45 – 64 years		65 years & over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Night dress caught on electric fire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fall Downstairs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fall at Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Fire at Home	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cot stand tilted	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2

PART II

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICE

Health Centres

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Vaccination and Immunisation

Ambulance

Care and After Care

Chiropody

Home Help

Cervical Cytology

HEALTH CENTRES

The Health Centre at Birch Street, Tipton, was completed and brought into use during 1971. This takes the form of the addition of a wing to the Birch Street Clinic to provide for four general practitioners (with about 14,000 patients), the attached Local Authority nursing staff and offices for use by social workers .

This wing, together with the clinic, forms the centre and the opportunity was also taken to include facilities for the Borough Treasury to house a cashier to receive the payment of rent and rates from the public in the area.

The clerical staff come from staff employed by the Corporation although much of their work is involved with the general practice, who of course pay a charge for such services.

A Health Centre at Wednesbury of a fairly small size involving four doctors and the Local Authority domiciliary staff association with the practice, but not involving Local Authority clinic services, was in course of construction during 1972, and scheduled to be operative in April, 1973. A major health centre for the centre of West Bromwich (with six doctors, school clinic, Local Authority clinic services, school dental service, general duties services and associated and attached staff) were in the course of planning, with construction expected to start in 1973.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

Ante-Natal Clinics

The Authority ran weekly ante-natal clinics, at which post natal examinations may be carried out, at the following centres:—

West Bromwich	—	Boulton Road
	—	Friar Park
	—	Hamstead
	—	Highfields
	—	Hill Top
	—	Hill Lane
	—	Stone Cross
Walsall	—	Yew Tree
Tipton	—	Birch Street
	—	Central, Horseley Road
Wednesbury	—	Mesty Croft

The clinics were staffed by midwives from the local authority only. There was an average of 42 sessions per month held during the year with an average attendance of 5 patients per session.

This does not represent the extent of ante-natal care given. General practitioners are invariably booked to give ante-natal care and with midwives attending ante-natal clinics in their surgeries, the greater proportion of women likely to be confined at home receive ante-natal care through such general practitioner clinics.

Attendances

	1969	1970	1971	1972
New Bookings	1,180	766	435	310
Return Visits	4,571	3,100	1,776	1,383

The following table shows the number of mothers attending and attendances made for Mothercraft teaching and relaxation exercises during 1972 :—

Attendances for Mothercraft and Relaxation Exercises

Centre	Institutional Booked	Domiciliary Booked	Persons Attending	Attendances
Hill Top & Highfields	23	10	33	100
Boulton Road	13	9	22	164
Hamstead	30	3	33	163
Hill Lane	22	12	34	139
Yew Tree & Stone Corss	34	2	36	254
Hallam Hospital*	74	—	74	359
Birch Street*	88	10	98	316
Mesty Croft	28	2	30	150
Totals	312	48	360	1645

* Mothercraft Only

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The following table gives details of the places, days, total sessions and attendances at the centres :—

Place	Day	Total Sessions During the Year	Total Attendances During the Year
Boulton Road	Tuesday	48	
	Thursday	51	2795
Friar Park	Wednesday	51	2499
Greets Green	Wednesday	51	843
Hamstead	Wednesday	51	
	Friday	51	2669
Highfields	Monday	48	
	Thursday	52	3163
Hill Top	Monday	48	
	Thursday	52	2228
Hill Lane	Monday	48	
	Tuesday	48	2609
Stone Cross	Tuesday	48	2086
St. Mary's Hall, Charlemont Farm	Friday	51	496
Yew Tree	Wednesday	51	
	Friday	51	2999
Birch Street	Monday	48	
	Tuesday	48	
	Thursday	52	5480
Central, Tipton	Monday	48	
	Thursday	52	1758
Burnt Tree	Wednesdays (Alternate)	26	897
Ocker Hill	Tuesday	48	
	Wednesday	51	4760
Mesty Croft	Monday	48	
Wednesbury	Wednesday	51	
	Friday	51	5583
Albert Street	Tuesday	48	
Wednesbury	Thursday	52	3948
Chapel Lane	Thursday	52	1025
TOTALS		1475	45,838

Each centre was staffed by health visitors and nurses and a medical officer employed by the authority, and valuable assistance was given at some clinics by voluntary workers.

Vaccinations against poliomyelitis, together with triple immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus were carried out at the centres.

Further details of the numbers of children attending the centres are given below :—

	First Attendances			Subsequent Attendances		
	1970	1971	1972	1970	1971	1972
Children between 0 — 1 year	2,724	2,923	2,076	31,127	31,702	16,436
Children between 1 — 2 years	74	78	1,395	9,466	9,171	17,679
Children between 2 — 5 years	173	190	1,433	10,414	9,514	11,723

Baby Food

There was a central distribution centre open during office hours each day for the distribution of baby food, orange juice and cod liver oil, and supplies were also available at all infant centres in the borough.

The following quantities were issued to beneficiaries :—

	1970	1971	1972
National Dried Milk	734 tins free	628	697
	3,640 tins at 20p	4,543	4,785
	<u>6,587</u>	<u>5,518</u>	<u>5,482</u>
Total :			
Orange Juice	32,824 bottles at 7½p	31,069	12,751
	2,616 Free	3,384	42
	<u>35,440</u>	<u>34,453</u>	<u>12,793</u>

The sale of orange juice as a national welfare food was discontinued after the 30th June 1973. A similar commodity was introduced on a proprietary basis after this date.

	1970	1971	1972
Vitamin Tablets	1,355 packets at 2½p	1,112	13
	at 6p	—	734
	57 free	123	50
	<u>1,412</u>	<u>1,235</u>	<u>797</u>
Vitamin Drops — (Introduced 4th April 1971 replacing Cod Liver Oil and Orange Juice) —			
	bottles at 5p	2,162	5,897
	free	<u>900</u>	<u>1,163</u>
		<u>3,062</u>	<u>7,060</u>

Free issues are made on production of vouchers obtained through the Ministry of Social Security.

A total of 59,130 items of various proprietary foods was sold giving an income of £11,077. The price in each case was the cost to the Corporation plus 10%, and usually was less than the normal retail price, and 260 cartons were issued free of charge.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL SERVICE 1972.

I am indebted to Mr. J.B.C. Cuzner, the Principal Dental Officer for the following report :—

“The main changes between 1972 and the previous year were largely due to a decrease in the number of children who needed treatment. This fell from 63% in 1971 to about 50% in 1972. For each year roughly the same number of children were examined.

A pleasing feature for both parts of the service lies in the ratio of teeth filled to teeth extracted. This improved from .26 in 1971 to .32 in 1972 for the children and from .24 in 1971 to .40 in 1972 for the mothers. Also there was an improvement in the number of emergency cases for each of these classes.

There is a fall in output, but this is due to the smaller number of children needing treatment. As mentioned above the “pattern” of treatment has improved with the emphasis shifting to the saving of teeth rather than extracting.

One inherent weakness of this service is lack of any organised dental inspection for the children or mothers. It is true that the inspection of three year old children is being carried out, indeed this is now being extended to the whole of the Town, but this is done by invitation only, thus only the more responsible mothers avail themselves of this inspection and seem to appreciate this examination, but of course responsible people are not a real problem. The difficulty lies with those who have no interest in either their own teeth or their children’s teeth. Some form of Dental Health Education would seem to be the only answer to this problem.”

The following table shows forms of treatment given and the number of mothers and young children provided with dental care during 1971 and 1972 :—

	Children 0—4 (Incl.)		Expectant & Nursing Mothers	
	1971	1972	1971	1972
Attendances & Treatment				
First Visits	208	151	62	32
Subsequent Visits	90	53	113	75
Total	298	204	175	107
No. of additional courses of treatment other than the first course commenced during the year	—	1	4	—
Treatments provided during the year				
No. of fillings	158	98	45	49
Teeth filled	148	92	40	38
Teeth extracted	397	290	193	94
General Anaesthetics given	158	93	30	27
Emergency visits by patients	140	105	29	25
Patients X-rayed	1	—	2	6
Patients treated by scaling and/or removal of stains	7	2	14	10

	Children 0—4 (Incl.)		Expectant & Nursing Mothers	
Treatments provided during the year cont. —	1971	1972	1971	1972
Teeth otherwise conserved	12	2	—	—
Teeth root filled	—	—	—	—
Inlays	—	—	—	—
Crowns	—	—	1	—
Number of Courses of Treatment completed during the year	107	68	38	19
Inspections — No. of patients given first inspections during the year	325	314	57	47
No. of patients who required treatment	204	152	55	47
No. of patients who were offered treatment	203	141	55	37
Prosthetics — Patient supplied with F.U. or F.L. (1st time)	8	—	—	5
Patients supplied with other dentures	10	—	—	5
Number of dentures supplied	24	—	—	17
Anaesthetics — General Anaesthetics administered by Dental Officers	—	—	—	3

Sessions — No. of Dental Officers Sessions (i.e. equivalent complete half-days)
devoted to maternity and child welfare patients.

For treatment	42.4	28.8
For Health Education	—	2.1

Babies born with Congenital Defects

Cases of congenital malformations noted at birth have continued to be reported by midwives on birth notification cards which have been suitably printed to accommodate the additional information. The appropriate returns have been made to the officer of Population & Census Surveys.

During the year 43 babies were notified and all the returns were scrutinised by a medical officer of the department. If necessary the babies were visited. After the doctors' investigations, 3 babies were not considered to be malformed, leaving a total in the year of 40, four of which were stillborn.

The babies mentioned in the previous paragraph who were born with congenital abnormalities were all entered on the "At Risk Register", which also contains the names of all babies who on account of family history, illness of the mother during pregnancy, of difficult birth, are considered to be in danger of developing handicapping conditions

These children are followed-up at regular intervals so that any abnormalities of development can be investigated at the earliest opportunity, and arrangements made for the appropriate treatment to be obtained or for special schooling or treatment to be given

Care of Unmarried Mothers

A total of 193 illegitimate births (190 live and 3 still) during 1972 representing 8% of the total births, was recorded in respect of women normally resident in the borough.

Care of unmarried mothers is now the function of the Social Services Committee through their Director of Social Services.

Family Planning

The West Bromwich Family Planning Association act as agents of the Council in the discharge of their duties under the National Health Service (Family Planning) Act, 1967, providing on behalf of the Council free advice and examination for women seeking contraceptive help.

In addition however, as an independent organisation, they provide a vasectomy clinic, particulars of which are included in the following report prepared by the Secretary of the Association:—

At Control House, Shaftesbury Street, weekly sessions are held on Monday afternoons and evenings, Wednesday mornings and afternoons, Thursday mornings and Friday evenings.

During 1972 we held 298 clinic sessions (465 doctor sessions) and of the 1265 new patients registered, again nearly half came through personal recommendations. Only 127 were referred by their family doctor and most of the remainder, on interview, stated that they were aware of the existence of family planning clinics through various

channels of publicity and information put out by the Family Planning Association. The largest age group was between 20–24 years and the smallest between 30–34 years. A total of 589 patients had no children, 197 had one or two children and 172 had three or more children. Of 1655 cytological smears taken none were positive.

In accordance with the National Health Service (Family Planning) Act 1967, the only charge made to registered F.P.A. patients living in the West Bromwich area, other than for supplies, is £1.25 for a pregnancy test.

The cervical smear tests and pregnancy tests are available to non-F.P.A. patients for a charge of £1.90 and £2.50 respectively.

The Vasectomy Clinic at Control House covers a much wider area than the Borough, but as an indication of the work performed it is advisable to include comments :—

“The Vasectomy Clinic continues to be busy, and the heavy waiting list which built up at the opening of the clinic and was brought into line in 1971, has never been allowed to grow. When the demand is heavier, the sessions are increased. It is, therefore, possible to offer a service with only a twelve week period between the time of application and the date of the operation. During 1972, 865 operations were performed and 907 couples were counselled”.

At Horseley Road, Tipton, a weekly session is held on Tuesday mornings. During 1972 there were 48 clinic sessions and of the 151 new patients registered once again came through personal recommendation and half in response to publicity and information put out by the Family Planning Association. The largest age groups were between 20–24 years and 25–29 years. Nine patients had no children, 55 had one or two children and 66 had three or more children. Of 80 cytological smears taken none were positive.

A domiciliary family planning service has been in operation since 1st April 1972, and 31 patients had been visited by 31st March, 1973.

Ultra Violet Light Clinic

Ultra violet light clinics were discontinued in August 1969.

Day Nurseries, Child Minders and Play Groups

Responsibility for Day Nurseries, Child Minders & Playgroups was passed to the Director of Social Services on the 1st January 1971.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The recommended timetable for immunisation and vaccination of infants was as follows :—

6 months of age	—	Triple antigen and one dose of Oral Polio Vaccine
8 months of age	—	-ditto-
13 months of age	—	Measles Vaccination
14 months of age	—	Triple Antigen and one dose of Oral Polio Vaccine
5 years or at entry to school	—	Diphtheria and Tetanus combined Antigen and one dose of Oral Polio Vaccine
11 years of age	—	Rubella Vaccination
13 years of age	—	B.C.G. Vaccination
15 years or on leaving school	—	One dose Tetanus Antigen and one dose or Oral Polio Vaccine

Only disposable syringes are used in the Local Authority Services

Vaccination against Smallpox

Vaccination of infants against smallpox was carried out at the infant welfare centres and by general practitioners. The number of records received of primary vaccinations in children under five years of age is shown in the following table :—

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1 year	1 year	2 — 4 years	5 — 14 years	Total
Number Vaccinated (Primary)	4	15	27	23	69
Number Re-Vaccinated	1	1	5	42	31

A total of 3 persons over 15 years of age was vaccinated or re-vaccinated. The following table shows the acceptance for children under the age of five years compared with the estimated population in that age group :—

Year	Number Vaccinated	Estimated Population
1972	46	14,300
1971	574	14,300
1970	987	14,300
1969	1,111	14,080
1968	1,481	14,080
1967	1,305	14,080
1966	1,393	8,000
1965	678	8,000
1964	677	8,000
1963	330	8,000
1962	1,968	8,000

The high figure for 1962 was due to the occurrence of a case of smallpox in the town and a number of cases elsewhere in the country, and the increase in 1966 was due to the need of evidence of recent vaccination for intending travellers abroad. This need arose because of a few mild cases of smallpox in England.

On and from 1st September 1970, the routine vaccination of children was discontinued and since that date parents desiring Smallpox Vaccination are advised to contact their general Practitioner.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is freely available to all children at the local authority clinics and from family doctors.

A total of 2138 infants were given protection against diphtheria during the year and a total of 1,981 reinforcement injections were given to school children. The corresponding figures for 1971 were 1925 and 1358 respectively.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

The following table shows the number of persons who were vaccinated against poliomyelitis during the year :—

Born	No. of persons who have received third dose of oral vaccine
1972	11
1971	996
1970	845
1969	138
1965 / 1968	47
Others Under age 16	61
Totals	2,098

The number of persons given a reinforcing dose of oral vaccine after primary immunisation with Salk or oral vaccine was 1,123.

The foregoing immunisation figures show no great improvement but with a staff of health visitors well below establishment further improvement will be difficult to achieve. The usual methods of publicity have been used, but individual visits are necessary to persuade some parents.

Vaccination Against Measles

Eighteen hundred and forty children were vaccinated against Measles, as follows :—

Born	1972	1971	1970	1969	1965/68	Others Under 16
	26	986	355	85	376	12

Vaccination Against Rubella

Two thousand four hundred and eighty seven school children aged 11 — 13 years were vaccinated against Rubella.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION OF CHILDREN

The following table shows the percentage of children vaccinated at the 31st December 1972, who were born in the year 1970 with the equivalent national figures :—

	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Poliomyelitis
West Bromwich Born 1970	53%	64%	63%
England and Wales Born 1970	79%	81%	80%

B.C.G. VACCINATION

B.C.G. Vaccination continued to be offered to children attaining the age of 13 years, and was also offered again to children aged 15 years who had not received it previously.

Vaccination was, therefore, offered to a total of 3,326 children and of these 2,686 accepted (80.7%). Vaccination was found to be un-necessary in the case of 119 of these, because records showed they had been vaccinated previously, or had previous positive skin tests, indicating that they were already tuberculin positive and are not in need of B.C.G. vaccination.

Of the remainder, a total of 2,592 were given a skin test (Tine Test) to determine whether or not they required vaccination against tuberculosis, and 2,423 were finally vaccinated.

Fifty-two children who had strongly positive skin tests were given appointments for X-ray of the chest.

During the year, 189 babies of Asiatic origin were given B.C.G. vaccination within eight weeks of birth.

Vaccinations at three large schools had been deferred to 1972 from 1971 because of shortage of medical staff in 1971.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

General

The system of Control is as follows :—

No 1 Control Station Oak Lane operating on a twenty-four hour basis.

No 2 Sub Station operating on a seventeen hour basis which is an increase of two hours, this is to enable the night staff to carry out routine vehicle chores as per daily routine orders which were introduced on the 30th September, 1972.

A re-organisation of the Management structure of the service was implemented on the 17th December, 1972 and the establishment of the service now provides for the following staff :—

	1	Chief Ambulance Officer
	6	Station Officers
	7	Deputy Station Officers
	2	Clerk Telephonists
	36	Driver Attendants
Total	<u>52</u>	

The above figures of thirteen Supervisory staff provides for Holiday — Sickness and Training cover to a minimum of 120 hours.

The above figures of thirty-six Driver Attendants provides for Holiday and Sickness cover of eighty hours and an additional forty hours for training.

The rank title of the Ambulance Superintendent was re-designated Chief Ambulance Officer from the 25th July 1972.

Driver/Attendants Rota

The revision of this was still pending at the end of the year, but it is of importance that a new rota be implemented in order that this Authority may function efficiently and comply with the required standards of training as recommended by the Ministry.

Promotions

Driver/Attendant L. Leach and D. Percival were promoted to a Supervisory grade as from the 17th December, 1972.

Driver/Attendant J. Staphnill was promoted to a Supervisory grade as from the 1st January, 1973.

Retirements

Shift/Leader F. Harper retired from the service on the 30th June 1972.

Shift/Leader J. Newey retired from the service on the 31st August 1972.

Training

Fifteen personnel attended the refresher training course at the Birmingham training school and all fifteen attained a satisfactory standard.

Motorways

Response to five accidents only involving nine patients (one fatal), other responses made but services not required.

Equipment

Analgesic equipment (i.e. :— Entonox) introduced in to the service as from the 13th April, 1972.

New Vehicles

Four new Sitting case Ambulance vehicles were received and put into service on the following dates i.e. :—

LEA 738 K	6th September, 1972
LEA 739 K	10th September, 1972
LEA 740 K	10th September, 1972
OEA 735 L	23rd December, 1972

One new sitting case Ambulance Car was received and put into service on the following date i.e. :—

NEA 565 L	4th October, 1972
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Old Vehicles

Sitting case Ambulance vehicles taken out of service during September, 1972 i.e. :—

514 MEA — 815 HEA — AEA 618C

Sitting case Ambulance vehicles taken out of service during October, 1972 i.e. :—

16 KEA

Vehicles in Service

Vehicle No.	Make		Placed in Service	Mileage 1972
(17) 617 TEA	B.M.C.	S/C	16.11.64	11825
(19) DEA 719 C	„	AMB	6.10.65	13596
(27) KEA 127 E	„	AMB	17. 2.67	10336
(28) KEA 228 E	„	AMB	15. 6.67	17385
(29) OEA 529 F	„	AMB	21. 2.68	14560
(30) OEA 530 F	„	AMB	18. 4.68	15142
(31) SEA 31 G	„	AMB	11.10.68	16338
(32) SEA 32 G	„	S/C	16. 8.68	13656
(33) XEA 33 H	„	AMB	6. 4.70	20668
(34) XEA 34 H	„	AMB	1. 4.70	22052
(37) EEA 837 J	„	S/C	28. 7.71	19607
(89) PEA 235 F	„	S/C CAR	25. 7.69	22882
(20) EEA 120 J	„	AMB	29. 6.71	6736
(26) EEA 126 J	„	AMB	29. 6.71	12772
(38) LEA 738 K	„	S/C	6. 9.72	4417
(39) LEA 739 K	„	S/C	10. 9.72	4739
(40) LEA 740 K	„	S/C	10. 9.72	4890
(65) NEA 565 L	„	S/C CAR	4.10.72	4016
(35) OEA 735 L	„	S/C	23.12.72	14
				Total 235631
Other vehicles taken out of service			... ..	„ 31469
				Grand Total 267100

Work Done 1972

Patients carried	...	...	69,397
Ambulance Mileage	...	...	149,585
Sitting case Mileage	...	...	117,515
Total Mileage			267,100

Number of Out-patients	...	56,610
Number of Emergency cases	...	3,000
Other cases	...	9,787
		<hr/>
Total number of cases		69,397
		<hr/>
Average miles per patient	...	4 approx
Total number of Stretcher cases	...	14,874
Total number of Sitting cases	...	54,523
		<hr/>
		69,397
		<hr/>
Increase in patients compared with 1971		5,308
Increase in mileage compared with 1971		6,759

Major Accidents

A scheme provides for immediate nursing and medical help and equipment from hospital within a few minutes and, in conjunction with the police, fire and hospital authorities, for control of the accident, ambulance directions and use of hospital beds.

This scheme covers the conurbation of the County Boroughs of Dudley, Walsall, Warley, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton and the plan is designed to achieve unified action on a unified basis by these authorities and the West Midlands Constabulary.

CARE AND AFTER—CARE

Convalescence

No provision has been made for convalescent Home Care since the 31st March 1968.

PROVISION OF NURSING EQUIPMENT

Loan Equipment

Stocks of nursing equipment for use in patients homes are held at the nurses' centres. These articles are lent on the recommendation of a general practitioner, midwife or district nurse.

The following types of equipment were available for use during the year.

Air rings	Bed wedges
Back rests	Feeding cups
Bed cradles	Head poles and chains
Bed pans	Housechairs
Bedstead (special)	Matresses and covers
Commode chairs	Nocturnal Eurises alarms
Urinals	Ripple beds
Waterproof sheets	Spinal carriages
Walking sticks	Spinal supports
Walking aids	Sputum cups (disposable)
Air beds	Wheelchairs
	Fracture Boards

No charge is made for the use of the equipment, but each borrower is required to sign an agreement to return the items loaned within three months and in good condition. The loan period can be extended by signing a further agreement.

INCONTINENCE PAD SERVICE

The Council authorises the free issue of incontinence pads as part of their arrangements for the care of patients in their own homes. Pads are freely available and are issued upon the advice of a doctor or nurse.

These pads have been a normal item of equipment used by the Home nurses for some years and it has been found that the greater majority of patients in need of the pads are in fact attended by the Home Nursing Service and, therefore, received them in this way. Consequently there has only been a small demand for pads provided separately than through the Nursing Services. Disposal of pads has not presented a special problem. The variety used are composed entirely of paper (some patterns have a waterproof outer covering) and burn in domestic fires of various kinds. In some cases outside incineration is resorted to, and in the modern block of flats provided by the Council electric incinerators are installed.

CHIROPODY SERVICE

The service is provided by the Council for various sections of the community for the following categories, at the following charges :—

	Clinic Treatment	Home Treatment
Aged, Handicapped and Blind persons	15p	25p
Blind Persons	25p	37p

An appointment system is applied. The staff consists of two full-time chiropodists working 20 sessions per week. They are assisted by six part-time chiropodists who provide 21 sessions per week.

During the past year the demand for chiropody treatment has increased, the patients being seen for regular treatment at eight or ten weekly intervals.

The number of treatments given is as stated :—

Clinic		Domiciliary		Residential Accommodation	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1381	5,796	542	2,519	232	620
Total :	7,177		3,061		852

The Grand Total of 11,090 Treatments is 392 less than the previous year.

Patients treated — Old age pensioners	2,782
Other (Handicapped persons)	<u>48</u>
	<u>2,830</u>

The difficulty with this service is that of recruiting an adequate number of Chiropodists.

HOME HELP SERVICE

This service was transferred to the Social Services Department in 1971.

Cervical Cytology

Forty-three sessions for women requesting “smear” tests were held at 2 clinics, Birch Street, Tipton and Stone Cross. The laboratory tests were carried out at Dudley Guest and Hallam Hospitals.

Cervical Cytology	Business Premises	Birch Street	Stone Cross	Totals
Sessions held :	3	19	24	46
Attendances — Initial	60	100	192	352
Recalls	—	103	152	255
Number showing abnormal cells suggesting a pre-cancerous condition	—	1	2	3
Cases referred to General practitioners	10	18	75	103
Average attendance per session	20.0	10.5	14.3	13.1
Percentage of cases attending referred to General Practitioners	16.6	8.8	21.8	16.9

TRAINING CENTRES

The Crest Senior Training Centre

This establishment was transferred to Social Services in 1971.

“Glenvale” Junior Training Centre

This establishment was transferred to the Director of Education in 1971.

Part III

Community Nursing Services

COMMUNITY NURSING SERVICES

The Director of Nursing, in conjunction with the Area Nursing Officers reports :—

The staff at the 31st December, 1972 consisted of :—

Director of Nursing Services

Area Nursing Officer	—	Health Visiting & District Nursing
Area Nursing Officer	—	Midwifery
Nursing Officers	—	2 for Health Visiting
		2 for District Nursing
		2 for Midwifery

Health Visiting —

Health Visitors	—	15 Full-time
		2 Part-time

Student Health Visitors	—	2
School/Clinic Nurses	—	5 Full-time
	—	7 Part-time

Hygiene Assistants	—	3
Tuberculosis Visitors	—	1 Full-time
		1 Part-time

District Nursing —

Home Nursing Sisters (S.R.N.)	—	17 Full-time
		1 Part-time
Home Nursing Sisters (S.E.N.)		8 Full-time
Auxiliary Nurses		2 Full-time
		2 Part-time

Midwifery —

Midwives	—	18 Full-time
		3 Three-quarter time

During 1972 the Reports of the Working Party on Nursing Management Structure in the Local Authority Nursing Services (Mayston Report) was implemented.

This followed the Salmon Report on the Nursing Management Structure in hospitals. The aim of the Salmon Report was to introduce more effective management in order to use nursing resources to better advantage and to provide a proper career structure for nurses who wish to go into the management aspects of their profession, coupled with adequate training in order to enable them to do so efficiently. The Mayston Report applies these principles to Local Authority Nursing

Structures in the following way :—

Local Authority Nursing Staff should have a management structure that would equate with the hospital nursing structure in regard to function and salary grades.

The Local Authority nursing management should consist of three levels :—

Top Management : A Director of Nursing Services in overall charge of the nursing services of the Local Authority.

Middle Management : Area Nursing Officers in charge of sections of the Nursing service.

First Line Management : Nursing Officers responsible for teams of approximately 10 to 12 trained nurses and auxiliaries.

On the retirement of Miss. E.A. Roberts, Chief Nursing Officer, in June, 1972, it was decided to introduce the Mayston Management Structure.

From July 1st, 1972, the Deputy Chief Nursing Officer was appointed Area Nursing Officer (Health Visiting and District Nursing) and the Supervisor of Midwives was appointed Area Nursing Officer (Midwifery). A Director of Nursing Services was appointed on August 1st, followed in October by the appointment of six First Line Managers (two for each discipline) to complete the management structure.

The management system is now working well and regular meetings are arranged between all grades of management and field workers.

HEALTH VISITING

There is considerable difficulty in recruiting health visitors and school nurses in this area. West Bromwich at the end of 1972 had a health visitors ratio of 1 to 10,000 of the population, as against the recommended figure of 1 to 3,000 in an area of this type.

With the introduction of the Mayston Structure of Management, two health visitors from the existing staff were appointed as Nursing

Officers, but because of the shortage of health visitors they have been unable to relinquish their case loads at present.

During the year two health visitors left to work in other areas, and one senior health visitor retired in July, but returned to work part-time later in the year.

Three school nurses left because of domestic commitments — two to work in other areas and one because of her pregnancy.

The student health visitor sponsored by the Borough in 1971, successfully completed her training and is now a very useful member of staff in the Tipton area. There are two student health visitors in training at Birmingham Polytechnic at present who will be joining the staff in September, 1973.

Working Arrangements

The policy of attachment of all community nursing staff to general practitioners has continued to function well throughout the year. General Practitioners are becoming increasingly aware of the help and advice the health visitors can give to their patients and much valuable work has been done in safeguarding the health and welfare of all age groups.

Clinics

All Clinics within the Borough continue to be managed by Health Visitors, with assistance from school nurses, i.e., infant welfare clinics, cervical cytology and minor ailments clinics. Ante-Natal clinics, relaxation and mothercraft classes are held, and health visitors and midwives work together during these sessions.

In February, 1972, special developmental clinics were started to enable more time to be given to the examination of babies on the “at risk” register. Screening tests for deafness continue to be carried out by doctors and health visitors, and those considered to be “at risk” are followed up and referred for further investigation, if necessary.

Guthrie Tests

Guthrie tests for the detection of phenylketonuria continue to

be done between the 6th and 10th day of life by midwives and after then, if required, by health visitors. A total of 2,352 tests were carried out during 1972, plus 4 Scliver and 8 Amino Acid Tests, usually babies born in Birmingham hospitals, and 15 repeat tests, making a total of 2,379 tests.

Computerisation of Records

On the 1st September, 1972, computerisation of infant health and immunisation records commenced, and midwives and health visitors were involved in the preparation for this.

Liaison with Hospitals

Close liaison is maintained with the Hallam and District Hospitals. A Nursing Officer attends two consultant paediatric sessions each week at Hallam Hospital, thus fostering a valuable relationship with the hospital medical and nursing staffs and exchanging useful information about babies and young children before they are discharged home.

A weekly relaxation and mothercraft class for expectant mothers attending Hallam Hospital is conducted by a senior health visitor.

Consultant diabetics clinics at the District Hospital are regularly attended by another senior health visitor, who sees patients whilst they are in hospital and visits them at home after their discharge to give advice and assistance with any problems arising from their diabetes.

Training

Bilston College of Further Education is to start a health visitor training course in September, 1973, and it is hoped that this will encourage recruitment of health visitors in the West Midlands.

Four health visitor students have been accepted for training in 1973 — two at Bilston College of Further Education and two at Birmingham Polytechnic. Another health visitor / fieldwork instructor is now being trained to assist with the practical training of these students.

Obstetric training was arranged at Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham, for one of the students prior to her health visiting training.

All senior nursing staff have now attended management courses and several members of nursing staff have been to in-service training courses and study days at Dudley, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury.

Health Education

The importance of the promotion of health and prevention of disease is becoming increasingly recognised, and the need for health teaching is likely to expand. It is in this field that the health visitor, with her nursing background and post-registration training, has a unique contribution to make.

A senior health visitor, who is attending a day release course in health education at Wulfrun College, Wolverhampton, this year, continues to organise the health education programme for the whole Borough.

Four courses on child care and general hygiene have been given at Churchfield and George Salter High Schools respectively, and three courses have been given at Manor High School.

During the year, 36 health education films have been shown and 113 talks been given to school children.

Practical instruction and talks have also been given to student health visitors, midwives and district nurses, and observation visits have been arranged for nurses in training at local hospitals. Talks have been given at Dudley College of Education to teachers in training and also to young wives clubs and other groups.

Leaflets and booklets continue to be distributed from clinics and schools.

Case Loads

At the end of December the Health Visitors' case load of children under the age of five years was 13,818.

The average case load per health visitor of children under five was 871, and 18,220 home visits were made by the health visitors.

Tuberculosis Visitors

There are 2 tuberculosis visitors, one full time and one half time (S.R.N.'s who have had experience of tuberculosis nursing) to deal with the visiting to tuberculosis patients for care and after-care and tracing contacts, which was previously done by individual health visitors.

Home Visits

Health Visitors work in clinics and General Practitioners' Surgeries and visit the homes, and School nurses work in schools and clinics :—

Analysis of Home Visits	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
First Visit to births	2,959	2,984	2,863	2,836	2,210
Re-visits to children under 12 months	6,851	8,066	6,430	5,960	3,747
First Visit Children 1 – 5 years	—	—	—	—	5,438
Re-visits to children 1 – 5 years	15,247	17,984	14,430	12,070	6,825
Visits to cases of infectious diseases	127	160	186	111	94
Other Visits (Including Tuberculosis)	4,086	3,771	5,007	6,195	7,896
Totals	29,270	32,965	28,916	27,172	26,210

During 1972 a total of 4,375 visits that were made were fruitless because there was nobody at home. Visits by appointment are difficult to arrange because of the fluctuating calls for the Health Visitors.

HOME NURSING

Attachment

Attachment of home nurses to general practitioners was continued and this policy is providing improved and more comprehensive nursing care of patients in their own homes. There is now a clear closer professional relationship between nurse and doctors, patients are better informed of the availability of supporting services and are happier and more confident in the knowledge that doctor and nurse are working together to assist in their recovery.

As the general practitioners become increasingly aware of the capabilities and experience of the home nurses, they are using their skills to the full. Changes in the pattern of work have been readily accepted by the home nurses and they realise that their patients are benefiting from these arrangements.

Liaison with hospitals

There has been an increased interchange between hospital and community nursing staff at all levels during the year. Plans are now being made for even closer liaison in view of the coming re-organisation of the National Health Service in 1974.

Staff

The ratio of home nurses in West Bromwich at the end of 1972 was 1 to 6,410 of the population, as against the recommended ratio of 1 to 4,000 of the population. During the year, one home nurse left to have her first baby, another had maternity leave, and one left to rejoin the local hospital staff. One of the male nurses obtained an appointment as Nursing Officer in Warley.

During the winter the staffing position caused anxiety owing to the fact that several nurses had long periods of sickness because of serious illness, and one senior nurse in the Tipton area was involved in a road accident in September and had not returned to duty by late July, 1973.

An agency Nurse was employed to help over this difficult period,

and gave very satisfactory service. The establishment of nursing auxiliaries was increased by two in October 1972. The auxiliary nurses carry out simple nursing care and bed bathing under the supervision of a trained nurse, thus releasing nurses to give skilled care for which they were trained.

State Registered and State Enrolled Nurses continue to be employed in the Home Nursing Service.

Working Arrangements

The home nurses work continues to come from general practitioners and hospitals. The trend is for hospitals to transfer patients home as soon as possible, and during the year Hallam Hospital opened a short-stay ward for surgical patients who may be discharged home to the care of the general practitioners and home nurses within a short time of minor surgery being performed.

The two nursing officers are each responsible for the day to day management of the home nursing service in one half of the Borough, working in close co-operation with the Area Nursing Officer. Because of the staff shortage the nursing officers have retained a small case load at present. The work of the home nurse is concerned to a large extent with elderly patients, although all age groups are covered. The provision of other Local Authority Services plays a large part in keeping the elderly mobile and happy in their own homes.

Close liaison is maintained with the Social Services Department over the provision of Home Helps and Night Sitters.

Training

Training for the National Certificate in District Nursing has continued throughout the year at the Post Registration Nurse Training Centre in Bilston. One state registered nurse was successful in gaining her certificate in 1972, and twenty home nurses now hold this certificate out of twenty-eight employed. Four state enrolled nurses will be seconded for training shortly.

Four nursing auxiliaries also attended in-service training courses

at Bilston. Two home nurses attended management courses arranged by Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and staff have also attended study days when release could be arranged.

Assistance with Training

The 1969 Syllabus of the General Nursing Council made provision for student nurses studying for the S.R.N. Certificate to have the option of spending at least six weeks during their second year of training learning something of the work of the Community Health and Social Services Departments. This six week period can be followed by four weeks supervised District Nursing practice.

During June and July, 1972, the first group of four student nurses from Hallam Hospital came to West Bromwich Health Department and were taken by Health Visitors, District Nurses and Midwives to visit patients in their own homes. The students visited Infant Welfare Clinics, Ante-Natal Clinics, etc. They also saw school health services and spent a day with the Public Health Inspectors.

Four district nurses had previously trained as practical work instructors and assisted in the practical training of these students and supervised their work in the patient's homes during their final four weeks experience.

The Community nursing staff enjoyed the experience of contact with these students and we hope students, in their turn, will find their period spent out of the hospital environment will prove useful to them in their future careers.

Cases Nursed

Year	Average Number of Nurses Employed	Number of New Cases	Total Number of visits
1962	12	772	30,169
1963	13	782	30,957
1964	13	708	31,890
1965	13	726	36,155
1966	23	1,213	60,392
1967	24	1,227	65,742
1968	24	1,327	63,971
1969	24	1,375	74,539
1970	24	1,490	76,878
1971	24	1,793	76,639
1972	26	1,955	91,445

One Thousand nine hundred and fifty-five cases were referred for home care during 1972 :—

1,340	by General Practitioners
608	by Hospitals
7	by the Chest Clinic

No cases were transferred from Other areas during the year.

	No. of patients being nursed at the beginning of month	New Cases	No. of patients being nursed at the end of month	Nursing Visits
January	638	166	651	7254
February	651	188	639	7232
March	639	179	676	7260
April	676	155	677	7308
May	677	147	646	7323
June	646	156	726	7641
July	726	184	806	7426
August	806	133	730	7669
September	730	142	738	7037
October	738	189	776	8099
November	776	165	744	7169
December	744	151	699	7027

MIDWIFERY

It is with deep regret I report the death of Mrs. Walker, a domiciliary midwife, who died in March following a short illness. As a midwife she was held in high esteem by all patients and her colleagues with whom she worked.

This vacancy was filled in August by a midwife from the staff of Hallam Hospital.

A forty hour working week for domiciliary midwives commenced January 1st. The reduction in working hours did not necessitate an increase in establishment. This was offset by the continued decline in the number of home confinements and a steady reduction in the birth-rate within this area as a whole.

Calls for the domiciliary midwifery service during normal office hours are dealt with through the health department. Outside these hours, midwifery calls are accepted by Ambulance Control and then passed on to the midwives' on call'. A current roster of midwives on duty is sent to ambulance headquarters weekly. The domiciliary midwives are provided with five radio sets, which are also controlled by ambulance control headquarters.

Expectant mothers on booking for home confinement, or early transfer home from hospital following confinement, are issued with written instructions on where to contact a midwife when necessary.

No insuperable difficulties have arisen from the foregoing arrangements.

Statutory Notification of Intentions to Practice

The number of midwives who notified their intentions to practise within this County Borough during the year were :—

Hallam Hospital	34
Portland House	13
Domiciliary Midwives	25

There were no midwives in private practice within the County Borough during the year.

Local Authority Ante-Natal Clinics

Eleven sessions are held weekly — they operate for one hour only. The number of expectant mothers attending these clinics continues to decrease, but other aspects of maternity services are available, e.g. blood samples are taken, bookings for confinement, maternity packs are issued and there is a health visitor available to give medical-social advice if necessary.

From October, the Senior Obstetric Registrar from Hallam Hospital has ceased to attend Stone Cross Ante-Natal Clinic. Consequently, all Local Authority ante-natal clinics are currently conducted by the domiciliary midwives.

The bulk of ante-natal care is undertaken by the General Practitioners in their surgeries, assisted by domiciliary midwives. Currently there are twenty four such clinics held weekly.

Predominantly, hospital confinement is now the accepted trend, but most patients prefer “short stay” bookings. However, there are still a number of patients in the “at risk” category who refuse to be confined in hospital, though this year’s report shows an appreciable reduction in the number of patients in this group.

Patients who request early transfer home following confinement are visited during the ante-natal period by the domiciliary midwife, who ensures that adequate facilities are available in the home before “short stay” bookings are confirmed. Post-natal mothers are visited for a minimum of ten days — receiving twice daily visits during the first three days following confinement.

Liaison between the hospitals and domiciliary midwifery services on the whole is satisfactory, thereby ensuring an efficient maternity service within this County Borough.

Midwifery statistics are outlined later in this report.

Classes on Preparation for Childbirth and Parenthood

Eight such classes are held in selected clinics weekly. Different aspects of teaching on these subjects are given by midwives and health visitors. These sessions are of particular benefit to women who are expecting their first baby, though all expectant mothers may attend. Talks are supported by film strips, educational material and practical demonstrations.

There are six teaching domiciliary midwives on the staff whose special responsibility it is to assist with the training of student midwives from Hallam Hospital during their Part II training in the community aspect of maternity care. Six student midwives were coached during the year and were successful at their final examination of the Central Midwives Board.

Domiciliary teaching midwives also assisted with the community care training of student nurses from the general training schools within this area.

Post Registration Studies

During the year, five midwives attended statutory courses and four attended courses on "Teaching and Preparation for Childbirth and Parenthood". A number of midwives also attended clinical "Talks" and other aspects of post registration training at hospitals in this County Borough and in the conurbation areas during the year.

Total maternity care of the patient is the joint responsibility of doctor and midwife. Due to the continued decline in the number of home confinements, the specialized skills of the domiciliary midwives are somewhat under used. A scheme was introduced during the year, and is developing through the activities of a Professional Sub-Committee, to integrate the domiciliary midwives with the midwifery staffing needs of Portland House, Wood Green, Wednesbury, which is a General Practitioner Maternity Unit. This scheme, when fully operational, will enable the domiciliary midwives to have more deliveries, and give the full range of maternity care to their patients, as currently much of the midwife's time is spent giving pre-natal and post-natal care only. It is also envisaged that this project may eventually assist in the formulation of a framework in which to establish a unified midwifery service within this area.

Midwifery Statistics of West Bromwich Residents

	Domiciliary Confinements	Home Confinements	% At Home
1968	877	2248	28.0
1969	715	2309	23.8
1970	617	2231	21.5
1971	478	2385	16.6
1972	294	2167	11.9

Cases of potential difficulties confined at home

	Primigravida of 30 years of age	Multipara over 40 years of age	Women in fourth or subsequent pregnancy	Total Number of Women	% of cases confined at Home
1968	9	8	156	173	19.4
1969	3	—	94	97	13.5
1970	1	3	89	93	15.7
1971	2	4	56	62	12.9
1972	—	2	39	41	13.9

Early Discharges

	Up to 2nd day	3rd to 5th day	6th to 10th day	Totals
1968	340	292	1624	2256
1969	405	555	1296	2256
1970	342	778	1127	2247
1971	381	876	977	2234
	1 — 2 days	3 — 7 days	8 days & over	Total
1972	322	1544	183	2049

Number of Ante-natal Visits Number of Post-natal Visits

1968	...	6073	1968	...	22284
1969	...	5179	1969	...	22292
1970	...	4866	1970	...	22162
1971	...	4161	1971	...	21577
1972	...	2859	1972	...	17791

PART IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence and Mortality

Tuberculosis

Venereal Disease

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Incidence

There were 271 cases of notifiable disease (other than tuberculosis) notified or otherwise ascertained during the year.

The following table shows the number of notifications received during each of the last ten years :—

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	7	1	25	26	9	31	23	1	10	12
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Typhoid Fever	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—
Measles	807	330	541	436	1088	283	379	947	345	206
Meningococcal Infection	1	2	—	5	—	4	4	4	2	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	2	3	5	2	1	5	2	—	1
Poliomyelitis :—										
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	14	7	43	64	67	37	25	37	31	17
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	147	15	55	89	68	19	8	73	31	4
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	1	1	—	17	4	7	—	—
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	44	51	41	15	28

Notifications

The current list of notifiable diseases is :—

Acute encephalitis
Acute Meningitis
Acute Poliomyelitis
Amoebic Dysentery
Anthrax
Bacillary Dysentery
Cholera

Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Paratyphoid Fever
Plague
Relapsing Fever
Scarlet Fever
Smallpox
Tetanus

Notifiable diseases — continued :

Diphtheria	Tuberculosis
Infective Janudice	Typhoid Fever
Leprosy	Typhus
Leptospirosis	Whooping Cough
Malaria	Yellow Fever
Measles	Food Poisoning
	Relapsing Fever

This does not include the requirements for notification of certain industrial diseases to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases

The following table shows the deaths attributed wholly or in part to infectious diseases during the last ten years :—

	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	1	1	—	1	—	2	3	1	—	2
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	2	—	3	1	2	3	1	—	2

Dysentery

Twelve cases of dysentery were notified during the year. The illness was mild in character and there was no general spread of infection.

Measles

A total of 206 cases of measles was notified compared with 345 in the previous year and 947 cases in 1970. There were no deaths in 1972.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case was notified.

Poliomyelitis

No cases were notified during 1972 and this is the eleventh year in succession free from this infection.

Scarlet Fever

Seventeen cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year. Scarlet fever still continues to be a mild disease and notification is likely to be incomplete. It is one manifestation of a common infection that also causes tonsillitis.

Whooping Cough

A total of 4 cases of whooping cough was notified.

It is most probable that this is a substantial under-estimate of the prevalence of the disease in the Borough as notification is likely to be incomplete.

Smallpox

No cases occurred during 1972.

Infective Jaundice

Twenty-eight cases were notified during 1972, compared with 15 in 1971. This is a virus infection common in children and there is no doubt that outbreaks in schools are reasonably common.

TUBERCULOSIS

Dr. C.W.D. Cole, Consultant Physician by arrangement with Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, acts as adviser in respect of Tuberculosis, and I am indebted to him for the following report :—

In writing this Annual Report on the state of Tuberculosis in the County Borough of West Bromwich for 1972, I am a little disappointed at the continuing high rate of Tuberculosis arising amongst the citizens of the County Borough.

There have been virtually no changes in the facilities offered at the West Bromwich Chest Clinic, at Hallam Hospital or the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, although new and improved methods of assessing pulmonary function have been available to both Heath Lane Hospital and Hallam Hospital.

New Notifications

In 1972 there was a total of 66 new notifications of Tuberculosis. This figure compares with a total of 84 new cases in 1971, and the table below demonstrates the pattern of incidence by age, sex and country of origin.

	BRITISH		ASIAN		OTHERS	
	R	NR	R	NR	R	NR
1969						
Male	22	2	5	3	Nil	Nil
Female	9	4	4	3	Nil	Nil
Children	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total 54						
1970						
Male	12	Nil	10	Nil	1	Nil
Female	4	2	4	2	1	1
Children	2	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
Total 41						
1971						
Male	22	1	13	7	Nil	1
Female	6	1	13	5	1	1
Children	8	Nil	1	2	2	Nil
Total 84						
1972						
Male	21	Nil	4	9	Nil	Nil
Female	10	3	5	4	1	Nil
Children	Nil	Nil	4	1	3	1
Total 66						

The table shows new notifications of Tuberculosis in West Bromwich for 1969–1972

From the table it is obvious that the number of cases of respiratory Tuberculosis arising in British males in 1972 is 21, compared with 22 in 1971. There were no cases of non-respiratory Tuberculosis in British males. British females produced 10 cases of respiratory Tuberculosis, which is the highest figure in 4 years. In addition, there were 3 cases of non-respiratory Tuberculosis arising in British females. There were no British children notified as suffering from Tuberculosis in any form during the year. The Asian males produced 4 notifications of respiratory disease which is the lowest figure for 4 years. There were, however, 9 cases of non-respiratory disease occurring in Asian males which is the highest figure for 4 years. Asian females produced 5 cases of respiratory Tuberculosis and 4 cases of non-respiratory Tuberculosis, a fall of 6 from 1971. Asian children produced a total of 5 cases of Tuberculosis, only 1 of which was non-respiratory. There were 4 cases of respiratory Tuberculosis and 1 case of non-respiratory Tuberculosis in members of other races. Only 1 of these was in an adult. Thus, the situation in 1972 shows that the main fall in the numbers of individual cases of Tuberculosis has occurred in Asian adults of both sexes, almost entirely confined to respiratory disease.

Dividing the total number of cases into two groups, persons of local stock and persons of other (ethnic) origins, it can be seen that nearly half of the cases of Tuberculosis in this Borough arose in persons originating from overseas.

Deaths

In 1972, 12 persons notified as suffering from Tuberculosis, died of that disease, or their deaths were materially accelerated by that disease. There were 8 men with respiratory Tuberculosis who died. Four of these men had concomitant potentially lethal other conditions present. One man also died of non-respiratory Tuberculosis. Three women died, 1 of respiratory disease, and 2 of non-respiratory disease. There were no deaths in children. In addition, a further 8 men and 6 women who were notified as having a tuberculous infection, died of causes unrelated to that disease. One man died of a new growth

of brain, 1 man of cancer of the breast, 1 man of leukaemia, 2 men of coronary thrombosis, 2 men of Pneumoconiosis, and 1 man died of renal failure. Six females with Tuberculosis also died of conditions unrelated. One died following cardiac surgery, 1 of cancer of the stomach, 1 of cancer of the uterus, 1 of asthma, 1 of cancer of the breast, and 1 of heart failure.

Attendances

In 1972 there were 1500 patients who attended the West Bromwich Chest Clinic for the first time, whilst there were 5,118 re-attenders. These figures show a fall of 257 new patients and 234 old patients .

Skin Testing

Skin testing to determine positive reactors to Old Tuberculin has been carried out on all child contacts attending the Chest Clinic. New attenders for the first time in 1972 gave a 26% positive reactors. This figure shows a welcome fall from the figures in the previous 5 years, which are as noted below :—

1968	52% Positive
1969	43% „
1970	38% „
1971	42% „
1972	26% „

Positive Reactors in School Children

Once again all school children who have been tested at school for their reaction to Old Tuberculin, at or about their 13th year, have been seen at the Chest Clinic whenever they were found to be positive. There were no cases of active Tuberculosis found in this group. Indeed, it was gratifying to discover that almost 80% of this group were already known to the Chest Clinic for one reason or another

Treatment

Nineteen seventy two has seen a hardening of medical opinion towards the use of the more modern anti-tuberculous drugs. In particular, the use of Rifamycin and Ethambutol have been used more extensively. Although a number of patients have been put on these drugs because their organism has been shown to be doubtfully sensitive to Streptomycin, PAS or I.N.A.H., an increasing number have been put on these drugs because of the absence of unpleasant or dangerous side effects of

of either Streptomycin or PAS or I.N.A.H. There is no doubt that Hospital treatment, initially, of patients found to be suffering from Tuberculosis, followed by a prolonged course of treatment at home, offers a cure in almost all cases of uncomplicated Tuberculosis. There has been an increasing awareness of this fact among the patients themselves and their families, and this has led to a fall in the number of absconders from treatment or supervision. It must never be forgotten, however, that Tuberculosis is an infectious disease, and there must be no 'let up' in the tracing of contacts of cases of Tuberculosis and their continued supervision.

Other Chest Diseases

It is perhaps unnecessary for me to draw attention to the very high incidence of cancer of the lung. Once again, this condition has accounted for a large number of deaths in middle aged men, and to several deaths in women. This disease is preventable, and there is no doubt that if the general public would stop smoking cigarettes, then the deaths from cancer of the lung could be cut to 1/10th or less of what they are now.

Pneumoconiosis again shows a welcome fall in incidence. The long term efforts of engineers in foundries are beginning to bear fruit, and to make the foundry a safer, if not a more comfortable place to work in.

Chronic bronchitis continues to cause a great deal of disability, and a number of deaths in this town. All areas in a conurbation where there is a lot of heavy industry always have a high incidence of this condition. One third of the male admissions to the wards of Heath Lane Hospital were chronic bronchitis in 1972. The cause of this condition is not known with certainty, but atmospheric pollution and cigarette smoking both exacerbate chronic bronchitis. It is to be hoped that, with continued improvement in the purity of our atmosphere, there will be a fall in the incidence of this disease.

Asthma

Nineteen seventy two was quite a good year for the asthmatics. There was only 1 death that I know of in this Hospital, and with modern treatment there is no doubt that the life of the asthmatic is very much more normal than it was a few years ago. In particular, the new drug Intal has been of great benefit in preventing many attacks in asthmatics.

After-Care

The arrangements for After-Care in West Bromwich through the Voluntary Chest Care Committee, have remained virtually unchanged over the year. This Committee is supported partially by a grant from the Local Health Authority, but mainly by donations from firms, organizations and individuals. It provides holidays for certain patients at Highley, and also assists with bedding and clothing, together with extra nourishment where indicated. The After-Care Committee provides a very much needed addition to the welfare of patients and their families, and I commend it heartily. I only wish that more of the citizens of the Borough could find it in their hearts to give donations to this organization more frequently.

Tuberculosis in Immigrants

The number of cases of Tuberculosis arising in persons from the Continent of India continues to give rise to concern. It is true that the figures have fallen from the high peak reached in 1971, and it is hoped that this trend will continue. There have, however, been 5 cases of Tuberculosis in Asian children, and a further 4 cases of Tuberculosis in children from the Caribbean area during the year. Although the numbers are not large they represent some 12 per cent of the total number of cases of Tuberculosis occurring in the Borough, and almost 27 per cent of the Tuberculosis occurring in non-British stock.

There are two T.B. Health Visitors working in the Borough, both of whom are multi-lingual, and both of whom can speak at least 1 or more of the Asiatic dialects. These ladies spend a high percentage of their time visiting homes, and encouraging contacts and patients alike to carry out instructions, and to take advantage of supervision from the Chest Clinic. These measures, combined with the B.C.G. vaccination of negative tuberculin reactors in the schools, and amongst susceptible groups at birth will, I hope, lead to a further decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis among Asiatic immigrants.

Finally, I must express my thanks to all members of the Chest Clinic Staff for their help during 1972, and also to my General Practitioner and Hospital Colleagues, without whom this Department would be much less efficient.

VENEREAL DISEASE

Details of the new cases of venereal disease in West Bromwich residents treated during 1971 at the General Hospital, Birmingham, the Guest Hospital, Dudley, and Manor Hospital, Walsall, are given below together with figures for 5 previous years.

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Syphilis	—	4	2	3	5	2
Gonorrhoea	58	60	85	60	65	47
Conditions other than venereal	107	118	167	150	164	189
	165	185	254	213	234	238

This does not necessarily represent the full extent of venereal disease as patients treated elsewhere than at hospital clinics (e.g. by their own doctor) are not known to this department.

Venereal diseases is not a notifiable condition.

Contact Tracing

This presents a difficult problem in a conurbation, but after extensive discussion the County Boroughs and the Regional Hospital Board devised a joint scheme whereby the hospital authorities employ contact tracers to work throughout the area, each authority to contribute to the cost.

The Consultant Venereologists approved the arrangement which provides for clinic based tracers and this came into operation during 1971.

Health Education in Venereal Disease

There is no Health Education Section and apart from some posters little has been done in 1972 in this respect.

PART V

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Health Education

Rehousing on Medical Grounds

Medical Examinations

Home Safety

Cost of the Services

HEALTH EDUCATION

Leaflets, posters and pamphlets are available in the Health Department and in Clinics. Education of the individual takes place at Infant Welfare Centres by the Nursing Staff working there. No specific staff are employed for the purposes of Health Education or its organisation.

Posters showing details for treatment of venereal disease were exhibited in public lavatories. No specific Health Education on the subjects of Smoking and Lung Cancer was carried out apart from posters and advice to individuals by members of the staff in the course of their normal duties.

In general, therefore, apart from personal advice very little Health Education has been carried out.

RE-HOUSING ON MEDICAL GROUNDS

Applications for First Tenancies

The allocation of medical points to those applicants for corporation tenancies who submitted medical evidence of illness in their family was continued throughout the year. In 1972 a total of 206 applications was received, an increase of 76 over the number received in 1971. Awards of 15 points were made to 19 cases, 12 points to 3 cases, 10 points to 49 cases, and between 2 and 9 points to 119 cases. In 16 cases no medical points were awarded.

In addition, during the year the Housing Committee agreed to offer accommodation to 17 families on the special recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health — in each case there was very serious illness combined with particularly difficult housing circumstances.

Transfers on Medical Grounds

Requests for transfer of tenancy on medical grounds continued to be referred to the Medical Officer of Health, and 718 cases were dealt with in 1972.

In 1971, 608 cases were referred and mention was made in the Annual Report for that year of the concern felt in the Health Department over the increasing number of requests for transfers on medical grounds.

As 1972 progressed it became clear that the numbers were continuing to rise and that it was becoming increasingly difficult to select certain cases for a medical recommendation and reject others, and at the same time justify these decisions to applicants, their doctors and members of the Council.

Consequently in September 1972, a report on the subject was submitted to the Housing Committee. The Committee agreed that in future every case supported by medical evidence should be placed in one of several categories according to the severity of the illness (as certified by applicants own doctors) and that varying degrees of priority should be given to each category. It is hoped that this system will be fairer to applicants since none will be completely rejected and some will receive higher priority than others. It should also be helpful to the Housing Department in applying medical priority.

In addition, it is slightly less time-consuming to the Senior Medical Staff than making all-or-nothing decisions, but this is offset by the steady increase in applications and this work continues to occupy a very high proportion of Medical time.

HOME SAFETY

Very little education was carried out on Home Safety as a formal activity. Health Visitors (well below strength) constantly drew attention to the risk in relation to inadequate fireguards or heating apparatus, particularly in houses in multiple occupation.

There are no staff specifically employed to undertake duties in connection with the education of the public in matters of Home Safety, but the Accident Prevention Officer does give assistance from time to time.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Corporation Staff

The medical staff advise on the medical fitness of staff before appointment and for the purpose of the sickness and accident scheme.

Newly appointed staff are not subject to a medical examination if they complete satisfactorily a declaration form relating to their past illness. Those involved in occupations dealing with young children, food, medical, nursing and dental services are subject to a satisfactory x-ray of the chest before appointment.

The work done during 1972 was as follows :—

Examination before appointment

A total of 390 officers completed satisfactorily declarations of health and was accepted without medical examination, which compares with 359 in 1971.

Medical examinations	61
Accepted	56
Deferred for re-examination	5

Examination for Sickness & Accident Scheme

A total of 536 servants completed satisfactorily declarations of health and were accepted without medical examination — this compares with 523 in 1971.

Medical examinations	149
Accepted	115
Deferred for re-examination	14
Failed	15

Examination of applicants for admission to training college or for employment as teachers.

Medical examinations	123
Accepted	123

The value of much of this work is in my view doubtful, for most of those employed do not need a high standard of physical fitness to undertake their work.

Fitness for Driving Licences

One of the functions of the Medical Officer of Health is concerned with advice to the Local Licensing Authority on applications for driving licences in which the applicant has indicated that he suffers from epilepsy, disabling attacks of giddiness or any other illness or disability which is likely to cause the driving of a motor vehicle by him to be a source of danger to the public.

Such advice is given after information is obtained from the patient, his own doctor and any other doctors who have been responsible for the medical care of the applicant.

The Department of the Environment issues advice with regard to applicants who suffer from epilepsy or disabling attacks of giddiness so that there is consistency on a national scale. Generally if attacks have not occurred for a minimum period of three years, despite a history of earlier attacks of the continuation of anti-convulsive treatment, the recommendation is to issue a licence.

In such circumstances, the licence is granted for 12 months only and a further application has to be made at the end of this period.

Any applicant refused a licence has a right of appeal (to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction in the first instance).

A total of 30 applications were submitted by the Local Licensing Authority for consideration during 1972, and recommendations were made as follows :—

Issue of Licence Recommended

Epilepsy or Disabling Attacks of Giddiness

New applications	9
Renewal after 12 months	10
Re-application after refusal	3

Illness other than epilepsy

New applications	2
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Issue of Licence not Recommended

Epilepsy or Disabling Attacks of Giddiness

New applications 4

Illness other than epilepsy

New applications 2

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies to the Borough are provided by two water undertakings. The City of Birmingham provided water supplies to part of the Great Barr and Hamstead areas and this supply contains added fluorides. Supplies to the remainder of the Borough are provided by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company which serves an extensive area of the West Midlands. These supplies are not fluoridated.

COST OF THE SERVICES

The cost of the services provided under the National Health Service Act, and other health services during the year is shown compared with the cost of the previous ten years in the following table :—

	Local Health Services		Other Health Services (Refuse Collection Prevention of Diseases etc)	
	National Health Services Act 1946			
Financial Year	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop	Gross Cost	Cost per 1,000 pop
1961/62	133,722	1,376	131,033	1,350
1962/63	149,218	1,522	132,552	1,352
1963/64	173,791	1,779	147,664	1,511
1964/65	200,327	2,052	183,206	1,877
1965/66	220,383	2,248	216,202	2,205
1966/67	410,560	2,390	370,510	2,157
1967/68	453,894	2,629	389,581	2,256
1968/69	482,438	2,799	409,050	2,373
1969/70	507,697	2,954	440,703	2,564
1970/71	604,981	3,497	469,593	2,714*
1971/72	547,737	3,289	535,375	3,214

* — Based on population at 30.6 i.e. 166,560

The figures for 1971/72 are not strictly comparable with preceding years, due to transfer of certain services (notably Home Help) from the Local Health Service to the newly created social service .

PART VI
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF
THE HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT

1972

Health and Hygiene Committee as at 31st December 1972

Chairman	—	Councillor R. J. Ashby
Deputy Chairman	—	Councillor Mrs. S. Salter

Alderman L. Peckover
Councillor T. C. W. Beeson
Councillor E. Clarke
Councillor A. E. Diggett
Councillor D. W. Foster
Councillor N. F. Gibbons
Councillor A. Handley
Councillor Mrs. A. V. Law
Councillor J. Stokes
Councillor J. Whitehouse

Co-opted Members

D. Saklatvala, M.R.C.S. (Eng), L.R.C.P. (Lond), 1933
W. J. Walkden, M.B., Ch.B. 1944 (Birm), M.R.C.P.(Lond), 1950
J. F. Milligan, M.B., Ch.B. 1937 (Edin)
Mr. J.O. Robins, F.H.A., F.I.A.C., F.R.S.H.

HYGIENE AND CLEANSING DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHMENT AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1972

Chief Public Health Inspector & Cleansing Superintendent	—	Stanley Cayton, M.B.F., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C., C.Eng., M.Inst.F.,	
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Meat Hygiene)	—	Albert Mercer, M.A.P.H.I.	
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector (Other Services)	—	Stanley W. Hogg, M.A.P.H.I.	
<u>HOUSING SECTION</u>	<u>SPECIAL SERVICES SECTION</u>	<u>MEAT HYGIENE SECTION</u>	<u>AIR POLLUTION SECTION</u>
Senior P.H.I.—A.W.Reeves	Senior P.H.I.—Wm Cunningham	1 Public Health Inspector	Senior P.H.I. — C.R.Cresswell
6 Public Health Inspectors	3 Public Health Inspectors	3 Senior Authorised Meat Inspectors	2 Public Health Inspectors
4 Technical Assistants	1 Technical Assistant	10 Authorised Meat Inspectors	1 Graduate Assistant
	1 Pests Officer		3 Technical Assistants
	3 Pests Control Manual Staff		
<u>OFFICES, SHOPS, FOOD AND DRUGS SECTION</u>	<u>PUBLIC CLEANSING SECTION</u>	<u>PUPIL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS</u>	<u>CLERKS</u>
Senior P.H.I.—C.C.Wilkes	Assistant Cleansing Supt. — G.L.Collectt	5 Pupil B.Sc. Degree Course at Aston University	1 Senior Clerk — Miss.G.M.Lemar
5 Public Health Inspectors	1 Senior Cleansing Inspector		7 Clerks
2 Technical Assistants	2 Cleansing Inspectors		(3 Clerks Sheepwash Lane Cleansing Depot)
	3 Chargehands		
	166 Workmen		
<u>VACANCIES</u>			
	1 Authorised Meat Inspector		1 Public Health Inspector (Air Pollution)
	1 Public Health Inspector (Housing)		1 Technical Assistant (Air Pollution)
	1 Public Health Inspector (Food)		1 Clerk (Cleansing Depot)

FOREWORD

The work of a Public Health Inspector may be summarised in various ways. For example, we can say that he is concerned with the place in which people live, work, and take their leisure, where they eat and drink, the air they breathe and the food they eat.

There should be no priorities but despite our good intentions in this respect we are subject to public pressures and when they are strong enough legislation is enacted which must be implemented. So, we are subject to the demands of the moment because staffs are not immediately expanded to deal with every new duty.

Housing

Nevertheless, our concern for where people live has always had a high place amongst our duties. It will be seen from the details in the report which follows that we have expended much money (more than ever before) and effort to encourage improvement of existing houses. The number of Improvement Grants approved at 355 is near the 400 annually at which we have been aiming but the building tradesmen and the suppliers of fittings and materials are working so much in arrears that completion of the work requires twelve months and more after we have given approval for work to proceed. Consequently, we are not as near to 400 completions annually as we need to be to make a significant and visible impact on good quality buildings which are decaying for want of money and thought to refurbish and improve them.

Most of the properties being improved are owner/occupied so very little change is taking place in the condition of rented property. This means that the house improvement programme is having little effect on the houses which are nearing the end of their useful life. Because the scheme is entirely voluntary it cannot be planned or directed in anyway and progress depends on persuasion.

By adding a little individuality and colour to the front elevation, the purchasers of Council houses have added something very beneficial to parts of the Council's estates which is a pleasure to see. Although the same phenomenon is noticeable in hitherto drab roads of investment properties they have not the advantage of wide streets, grass verges and gardens to the front.

The Improvement Area procedure is an attempt to stimulate improvements to dwellings along with environmental improvements by

the Council but the Council's endeavours in this respect have not been fruitful.

A greater willingness on the part of the Council to acquire and improve property particularly in Improvement Areas is needed not only to demonstrate what is possible but also as an act of faith in the future of the area selected for general improvement.

Air Pollution and Noise

The average monthly concentrations for smoke and sulphur-dioxide in 1972 are very gratifying. In 1970 we had recordings of smoke below 25 units for June, July and August and winter peaks very near 100. In 1972 there were five months, April to August inclusive below 25 and winter peaks only slightly above 50. The months of April to August approximately represent the level of industrial pollution, assuming that domestic space heating is not in use for much of the day. These results have been achieved with only one third of the industrial and domestic properties in the town subject to Smoke Control so a smoke level of no more than 25 units all the year round should be possible within the next two year period.

A low level of smoke pollution is not only beneficial in itself but uncovers sources of pollution which have hitherto been obscured and almost unnoticed.

Noise

It will be seen from the results of measurements recorded later in the report that in some parts of the town road traffic is a source of noise nuisance from early morning to late at night. In others, the border lines of tolerance are being reached. As was indicated last year, reduction in noise intensity reaching dwellings, by the device of leaving wide margins of land alongside highways is going to be very expensive to achieve and in many cases, impossible. The alternative, of sound proofing as compensation for loss of amenity and nuisance is being accepted by the government and we are now equipped to provide the necessary measurements of sound levels which will be the basis of such compensation. The indications are that nuisance from noise arising from both traffic and industrial activity will be a major responsibility and an important factor to be taken into account in considering all future development proposals.

Food Premises, Food Sampling, Shops and Offices

Probably the most interesting work done by the department in 1972 was the video-tape "Come Home to Hygiene". This was made possible by the co-operation of the Director of Education and aroused considerable interest amongst local authorities in various parts of the country.

Despite what might be considered a "diversion" the supervision of food quality, production and retailing was maintained at a level equal to that of the previous year.

There were slightly more prosecutions resulting from over 1300 requests for work to be done, mainly repairing, cleaning and painting arising from over 5000 visits. This is not a high proportion but too many, for some could easily have been avoided. In most cases they are not meant to be anything more than a rebuke or reminder that the laws relating to food have a purpose and must be satisfied, not ignored.

Despite an occasional "rebuke" to large and small food manufacturers and traders alike, acknowledgement must be made of the untiring efforts of many traders, and we have nearly 2000 of them, to maintain higher and yet higher standards, convince all levels of management and staff that "accidents" with food or hazards of mass production are not inevitable and that constant vigilance is necessary and unending.

After all the effort which goes into food preparation and sale in this country it is disappointing to hear derogatory and unfair comparisons made with other European Countries' standards. When "like" is compared with "like", English food will match others in quality and cleanliness.

Mention should also be made of the progress which has been made in raising the standards of vehicles carrying food. It is estimated that there are more than 1000 vehicles operating from and between premises within the Borough. We have close liaison with the food traders and we have been pleased to advise on matters concerning the design of new vehicles being introduced and the establishment of good daily cleaning schedules.

“Meats with Approval”

This title was given to a film on clean meat production produced some years ago. It depicted slaughtering and inspection of carcasses to a standard very far ahead of the slaughterhouse practices of that time. It is therefore very gratifying to be able to express approval later in this report, of the advanced designs now in use which surpass what we once thought hardly attainable in our circumstances but which will undoubtedly be copied and improved still further.

Though the number of licensed slaughtermen in the town has declined the number of young men formerly working as butchers but now qualified as authorised meat inspectors on the staff of the department, has risen to thirteen. They have all adjusted themselves very creditably to their new position and in mentioning the transformation which has taken place in our slaughterhouses reference must be made to their outstanding contribution to our activities in the major slaughterhouses of the town.

Few authorities have so many well trained butchers in their service and it may be that as significant buyers of meat for school meals and other catering, wider use should be made of their experience and ability.

Animal By-Products

Intensive poultry rearing has brought into existence many large establishments where poultry are slaughtered and prepared for sale in great numbers — in some cases, thousands, daily. This concentration of slaughtering makes possible the collection of feathers by the ton in addition to offal and blood. Sometimes the by-products of several factories are combined. In others they are treated on the site.

The most prevalent sources of odour complaint from animal by-products plants come from the so called ‘hot’ processes, particularly in the production of high protein animal feeding meals from meat, bone, fish, poultry and feathers. Although there may be a case for some rationalisation of raw materials handling, and much depends on prompt processing before putrefaction begins, this has not been attempted in this country.

Prompt treatment in small units may produce better results

particularly bearing in mind that the total amount from all slaughtering of food animals results in more than one million tons of raw materials annually all of which is highly putrescible. Though the industry does at times produce very offensive odours much effort is being directed into finding methods of prevention. The conversion of these by-products is a very necessary operation for not only is the protein meal so obtained very important and valuable, but destruction of the quantities mentioned, without causing a very severe nuisance is almost impossible.

There are twenty plants manufacturing chicken feathers and offal meal in the United Kingdom. Their average output is about 20 tons weekly, so the West Bromwich plant has rather above average throughput though activity is restricted to the processing of feathers. Complaints of offensive odour were very numerous and fully justified but have now practically ceased. This is probably the result of a number of changes made by the management who, throughout the commissioning of the plant have been most anxious not to give offence to any of their neighbours.

Refuse Collection

The control of refuse disposal will pass to the Metropolitan County Council in April 1974 although the District Council may act as Agents for a time.

The increasing amount of domestic refuse and other discarded materials from commercial and industrial premises which is already apparent is causing storage, collection and transportation difficulties and will present growing problems for those newly responsible for treatment and final disposal.

At an early stage there will need to be consultation with the Metropolitan County regarding the collection and disposal of waste from industry and commerce. Hitherto, many authorities have claimed they have no concern with waste from these two sources but this has not been the case in West Bromwich where commercial and industrial refuse is collected or accepted for disposal. In both instances arrangements have been made to continue to do so at appropriate charges.

The Department of the Environment's Report on Refuse Disposal

(HMSO 1971) supports this principal and recommends that the disposal of solid wastes of all types should be co-ordinated and controlled over reasonably large areas of a size similar to that of a Metropolitan authority. By such an arrangement the disposal of local authority and industrial wastes would be integrated, making better use of “disposal facilities and eliminating the present haphazard disposal of wastes generally”.

A policy decision of this magnitude may necessitate an immediate attempt to quantify the likely volume and weight of refuse from non-domestic sources which the Metropolitan County may be called upon to dispose of. This has been variously estimated at twice that of domestic refuse in industrial areas and equal in amount to domestic refuse elsewhere. In either case there will be a substantial increase in total refuse to be disposed of, for which provision will be required, although the demand may be controlled and accepted over a convenient period of time.

Staff Examination Results

Mr. A. W. Reeves	—	Part 1 B.Sc. (Sociology)
Mr. R. J. Shaw	—	Diploma in Municipal Administration
Mr. P. S. Fisher	—	B.Sc. (Hons.) (Environmental Health)
Mr. V.P.H. Whelan	—	B.Sc. (1st Class Hons.) (Environmental Health)
Mr. R. D. Cottrell	—	Construction Technicians Certificate T.2(Credit)
Mr. C. Parsons	—	Construction Technicians Certificate T.4(Credit)
Mr. K. Mayou	—	B.Sc. Course, Third Year, Aston University
Mr. C.D. Potts	—	B.Sc. Course, Third Year, Aston University
Mr. D. B. Ashford	—	B.Sc. Course, Second Year, Aston University

Council of Europe Medical Fellowship

Mr. C.R. Cresswell, C.Eng., M.Inst.F., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Senior Public Health Inspector (Air Pollution)

In February, 1972 Mr. Cresswell was honoured by this award which enabled him to visit the Federal Republic of Germany from 1st—14th October, 1972. The subject of his study was “Air Pollution and Noise Control from Iron Foundries and Associated Industries”.

A summary of Mr. Cresswell's Report to the Council of Europe on his return was included with the Health and Hygiene Committee's report for November, 1972. Amongst his "Conclusions" is the following:—

"The visit was very enjoyable and I find my enthusiasm for the clean air and noise control cause stimulated to an even greater degree than anticipated. I feel sure that the knowledge and experience gained will enable me more effectively to imbue my colleagues and the students I teach with my own enthusiasm".

Surely, ample justification for the time spent and the renewed zest for this part of our work cannot fail to be transmitted to all sections of the department to their advantage. We all share in the distinction accorded to one of our number and we congratulate him, especially.

Acknowledgements

It is again my pleasure to record my appreciation of the thoughts and efforts given to the maintenance of vehicles for refuse collection and associated activities by the staff of the West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive.

The assistance of officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, particularly in matters of animal health is also gratefully acknowledged as is the co-operation of the Chief Officers and Heads of other departments of the Corporation.

I also wish to acknowledge the loyal support I always receive from my deputies Mr. S.W. Hogg and Mr. A. Mercer, the leaders of the specialist sections, and all members of the department, including the Clerical Officers on whom so much depends.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, my thanks for the confidence and consistent support which I have received from yourself and the Members of your Committee in every aspect of the department's work.

S. CAYTON,

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Description of the area

Total acreage	11,704
Population (at mid 1972)	165,440
Product of a 1p rate	£84,000
Rateable Value of the Borough	£8,455,595

Meteorology — Weather Station, Wigmore :

Total rainfall	—	1972	30.67"
	—	1971	25.98"
	—	1970	31.55"
	—	1969	31.09"

Monthly rainfall 1972 inches

January	3.73
February	2.83
March	2.70
April	1.80
May	2.52
June	2.60
July	2.63
August	1.21
September	2.68
October	1.21
November	2.63
December	4.13

30.67 inches

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTION

	Inspections	Notices Served Formal	Informal	Prosecutions	Work in Default
HOUSING (Slum Clearance) repairs, improvement grants, multi-occupation and surveys	38,565	280	345	—	1
FOOD AND DRUGS Food Premises Food and Drugs Act Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Sampling OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963	4,099 — 563 340 1,873	— — — — —	1078 — 224 — 756	9 30 22 — 6	— — — — —
MEAT HYGIENE Meat and Poultry	7,769	—	15	—	—
AIR POLLUTION AND FACTORIES (Smoke Observations, Surveys, Complaints, volumetric measurements) Factories Act Industrial Noise	11,142 476 663	31 — 4	75 33 45	10 — 1	— — —
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (Special Services) (Nuisances, refuse collection and disposal, Civic Amenities Act 1967, rodent control, pests and infectious diseases, domestic noise and drainage)	10,505	357	574	—	726
TOTALS	75,995	672	3,145	78	727

A.W. Reeves, D.M.A., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector

HOUSING

Introduction

The staff of the section was increased during the year by the appointment of two public health inspectors and two technical assistants. This enabled a long overdue attack to begin on the problems of multiple occupation and relieved some of the strain on resources which had been increasing for a considerable period.

The number of applications for improvement grants continued the upward trend noted over the previous two years. The increase of more than 70% over the 1971 figure added measurably to the work of the section. Whilst this level of activity is welcomed in terms of a gradual improvement in the general standard of older housing stock the fact that only about 10% of the applications came from owners of tenanted houses must be a matter for continuing concern. The houses which generally speaking, tend to be in the worst condition are not being improved. This points to the need for more positive action if repair and improvement, are, in the long term, to be a viable alternative to ultimate clearance and redevelopment.

The routine work of the section was interrupted in the early part of the year by the large number of visits which had to be made in response to enquiries received during and immediately after the House Improvement Month. The result was that representations of clearance areas fell short of the programmed 400 houses.

The amount of interest in improvement displayed by owners of houses in the Burlington Road General Improvement Area was disappointingly low. It is unfortunate that a very advantageous scheme for environmental improvement in a part of the area is being thwarted by the owners concerned. It may be that a start on the environmental improvements which is anticipated early in 1973, will stimulate some interest in improvement of the houses, but there are many problems to be resolved if the area is ultimately to be successful.

New Housing Accommodation

TABLE 1

	1972	1971
Number of houses and flats built by the Local Authority	209	157
Number of houses and flats erected by Private enterprise	325	636
	<hr/> 534 <hr/>	<hr/> 793 <hr/>

Slum Clearance

Particulars of Clearance Areas declared and of individual unfit houses dealt with by Closing or Demolition Orders are set out in Tables II and III respectively. The total number of houses involved was 266.

Two public local inquiries were held during the year in connection with 4 Compulsory Purchase Orders. The total number of houses considered to be unfit was 118 and there were objections to the classification of 14 houses.

In confirming the Orders the Ministry upheld objections in respect of 3 houses.

Two Compulsory Purchase Orders and one Clearance Order containing a total of 36 unfit houses were confirmed without modification.

TABLE II

Clearance Area	Date of Representation	Order	No. of Houses	No. of Persons to be Displaced	Number of Families
Slater Street No. 309	27th January	Slater Street C.P.O.	2	5	2
Slater Street No.310	"	"	8	13	6
Burnt Tree No. 311	"	Burnt Tree No. 3 C.P.O. and Burnt Tree Clearance Order	9	22	10
Burnt Tree No. 312	"		3	7	3
Burnt Tree No. 313	"		21	89	15(+ 1 House in mult. occup)
Burnt Tree No. 314	"		7	16	5
Burnt Tree No. 315	"		5	20	6
Burnt Tree No. 316	"		18	51	19
Burnt Tree No. 317	"		2	7	3
Burnt Tree No. 318	"		2	6	3
Charles Street No. 319	"		11	32	11
Hargate Lane No. 320	29th June	Charles Street Clearance Order Hargate Lane C.P.O.	16	32	16
Sams Lane No. 321	"	Sams Lane C.P.O.	3	22	3(+ 1 House in mult. occup)
Sams Lane No. 322	"	" "	20	49	20(+ 1 House in mult. occup)
Oak Road No. 323	25th July	Order not yet made	27	95	29
Oak Road No. 324	"	" "	9	20	8
Francis Street No. 325	26th Sept.	" "	11	40	11
Francis Street No. 326	"	" "	19	59	19
Crankhall Lane No. 327	"	" "	13	27	13
Hollyhedge Road No. 328	"	" "	3	5	3
Tivdale Road No. 329	"	" "	3	9	3
Leabrook Road No. 330	"	" "	5	16	5
Leabrook Road No. 331	26th Nov.	" "	6	14	4

TABLE III
Individual Unfit Houses

	Houses Demolished	Demolition Orders Made	Closing Orders Made
1972	30	25	31
1971	12	31	35

Progress in rehousing and demolition of unfit houses

A total of 198 families comprising of 559 individuals were rehoused during the year from houses the subject of Closing or Demolition Orders or included in confirmed Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Orders. Two hundred and three houses were demolished.

TABLE IV
Houses Demolished

	1972	1971
Houses in or adjoining clearance area	173	219
Houses subject of demolition orders	30	12

Housing Repairs

Notices were served in respect of five houses under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1957 as amended by the Housing Act 1969. Four of the houses were unfit and one in need of substantial repairs. Nine notices were complied with during the year.

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT

Houses Made Fit

One house, the subject of a Closing Order was made fit and the Order determined.

Requests from Tenants under Section 19 Housing Act, 1964

Requests for exercise of the Council's powers to require improvement were made by the tenants of 5 houses. Improvement notices were served in all cases.

Burlington Road General Improvement Area

The area was formally declared by the Council in October, 1971. During the year five applications for improvement grants were submitted by owner-occupiers and approved. A scheme for provision of off-street car parking and landscaping of a portion of the area was prepared by the Borough Engineer (architect's department) and was submitted to the residents affected. A large majority of them were not prepared to accept the proposal which involved the loss of some rear garden space. Alternative proposals were under consideration at the end of the year. Because of this set back it was not possible to begin any environmental improvement works in the area.

The response in the form of applications for improvement grants has been very disappointing in view of the large number of houses in the area which, apart from improvements which could be affected, are urgently in need of a substantial amount of repair. Over 50 of the houses fall seriously short of the statutory standard of fitness and there are many more "borderline" cases. The department was approached by the owners of 41 houses who requested details of the work required to bring their houses up to the 12 point standard. Only if these enquiries result in applications for improvement grants and the execution of the work can we be said to be making progress and there still remains the problem of the very large numbers of owners who, in spite of the publicity given to the declaration of the area and during the House Improvement Month, appear to have no interest in improving their houses.

House Improvement Month

A house improvement month was held in collaboration with the Department of the Environment during March and April.

An exhibition was staged in the Town Hall for one week and a total of four show houses were opened to the public. One of these, a house in the Burlington Road General Improvement Area, which was acquired and improved by the Council was open for the whole of the month. The other houses used were two council houses, in Tipton and Wednesbury, which had been modernised and a large house in Beeches Road, owned by the Council, which had been converted into self-contained flats. Publicity displays were arranged in the Central Library and a number of branch libraries. Supplies of improvement grant literature were available at all these locations and officers of the housing department and members of this department were in attendance at the show houses to deal with enquiries. The Department of the Environment's mobile exhibition unit was stationed at sites in Wednesbury and Tipton during the first fortnight and the department also arranged an advertising campaign in the local press. A total of 459 enquiries were received from owners interested in carrying out improvements to their houses and during the two following months the routine work of the Section was brought to a virtual standstill by the visiting of the houses concerned.

HOUSING SURVEY

A survey of the present condition of housing stock in the Borough was carried out during the year to enable proposals for future clearance and improvement to be formulated. The information was being analysed at the end of the year prior to submission to the Housing Committee.

Information supplied to the Department of the Environment as requested in Circular 50/72 was based on estimates derived from that part of the survey which had been completed at the end of September. This indicated that approximately 1,300 houses which were not regarded as capable of improvement remained to be cleared. The need for further clearance will depend upon whether an acceptable standard of improvement can be achieved. It appears that about 6,000 houses in the Borough

are either unfit or sub-standard in respect of amenities and the Council's future policy will have to be directed towards either clearance or improvement of this number over the next ten years. It is hoped to submit a report early in 1973.

Improvement Grants

Particulars of applications approved are set out in Table V.

The decline in the number of applications for standard grants noted in 1971 continued. The number of applications approved was 64 in comparison with 89 in the preceeding year. In contrast to this the number of improvement grant applications increased from 207 to 355. It is difficult to say how much of the increase was the result of the House Improvement Month since the number of applications received before it was held was already showing a substantial increase over the corresponding period in 1971. The number of applications in the first quarter of 1972 was 61 compared with 28 in the same period in 1971. What is becoming increasingly apparent is that all the local builders who carry out improvement grant work have reached or are nearing saturation point and that the rate at which applications are being submitted is more a function of ability to obtain estimates than of desire to improve.

It is necessary once again to call attention to the fact that comparatively few tenanted houses figure in the applications received. The totals of 37 improvement grants and 15 standard grants approved in respect of tenanted dwellings compare with 30 and 16 respectively in 1971. The improvement grants include 6 houses to be converted to self-contained flats compared with 2 in 1971.

It remains to be seen whether the Housing Finance Act 1972 will provide the necessary stimulus. If it does not, there seems little prospect that any substantial number of tenanted houses will be improved to the point where the possibility of clearance can be ruled out. The Council's power to enforce improvement is dependent upon the wishes of tenants and is restricted to the provision of the standard amenities.

Financial Assistance For Improvement

TABLE V

Type of Grant	Applications Received	Applications Refused	Applications Approved	Houses For Improvement	Houses For Conversion	No. of Dwellings Resulting From Conversions	Grant Approved
Improvement Grants	378	23	355 (318 owner occupiers)	349 (Grants within £100 of Statutory Limit 71)	6	14	£240116
Standard Grants	66	2	64 (49 owner occupiers)	64	—	—	£15075
Special Grants	5	—	5 (21 House-holds)	5	—	—	£965
Grants For Separate Water Services	7	—	7	—	—	—	£288

Improvements Carried Out

Improvement Grants					Standard Grants									
Improvement		Conversions			Standard Amenities Provided								Grant Paid	
Improved to 12 Point Standard	Grant Paid	Houses Converted	Dwellings Provided	Grant Paid	Houses Im-Proved	Higher Limit Grants	Normal Limit Grants	Bath or Shower	Wash Hand Basin	In-ternal W.C.	Hot Water Supply			Sink
											at 3 pnts.	at 1 or 2 pnts.		
207	£119756	2	4	£3900	49	23	26	28	32	44	26	10	—	£8880
Separate Water Services														
Work completed		—		5 Houses										
Grant Paid		—		£175										

Conversion of Controlled Tenancies to Regulated Tenancies Qualification Certificates

The provisions of the Housing Act 1969 were repealed and re-enacted with some modifications in the Housing Finance Act 1972.

TABLE VI
Houses with all Standard Amenities

Qualification Certificates (Section 44(1) Housing Act, 1969)		
	1972	1971
Applications received during the year	81	183
Qualification Certificates refused	181	25
Qualification Certificates issued :		
(a) Dwellings with rateable value of £60 or more	27	40
(b) Dwellings with rateable value of £40 to £60	29	30
(c) Dwellings with rateable value of less than £40	1	4
Applications under consideration at the end of year	44	213

Since the introduction of the procedure at the end of August, 1969 a total of 438 applications have been received and the number of certificates issued is 154. When the 1972 Act became operative all applications which had been referred back to owners were formally refused where there had been no indication of an intention to carry out work to satisfy the qualifying conditions. The total number of refusals now stands at 234 and 6 applications were withdrawn.

There were no appeals against refusal of qualification certificates.

Certificates of Provisional Approval

TABLE VII
Houses requiring one or more of the standard amenities

Certificate of Provisional Approval (Section 44(2))		
	1972	1971
Applications received during the year	17	13
Provisional certificates not required	6	—
Provisional certificates issued	10	14
Qualification certificates issued	7	16
Under consideration at end of year	4	3

When existing controlled tenancies come under rent regulation, at dates over the next 2½ years depending on the rateable value, the qualification certificate procedure will become redundant. Fair rents will then be attainable whether or not the qualifying conditions are satisfied, although the state of repair, fitness and amenities will have a bearing on the rent level which can ultimately be determined by the Rent Officer. The effect of this will be to allow an increase of rent without the need for expenditure to improve the dwelling provided the owner is prepared to wait until de-control applies.

The prospect of a substantial increase in rent has no doubt influenced those landlords who have applied for and obtained qualification certificates during the past 3 years. Satisfaction of the qualifying conditions (that the dwelling (1) has all the standard amenities (2) is in good repair and (3) is in all respects fit for human habitation) has had the effect of raising the standard of the houses in respect of which qualification certificates have been granted. There now seems to be a prospect that the impetus given to improvement of tenanted houses will be lost since the only financial inducement for improvement of rent-regulated houses will be the additional amount by which the rent could be increased as a result of the provision of additional amenities or a substantial change in the state of repair. This must obviously be much less than the amount available on conversion of a controlled tenancy where the qualifying conditions are satisfied prior to registration of a fair rent.

It remains to be seen whether the ending of rent control will have any marked effect on the standard of maintenance of tenanted houses.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The additions to the staff of the section during the year have enabled a systematic survey for the discovery and effective control of multiple occupation to begin.

A registration scheme including control provisions was confirmed by the Department of the Environment and came into operation on 25th October. The scheme provides for the registration of all houses in multiple occupation which are occupied by more than two households or one household and more than four other persons and contains provisions for control of new multiple occupation in excess of these limits. By the end of the year 21 houses in existing multiple occupation had been registered and 63 further houses had been found not to be registerable because the level of occupation did not exceed the limits.

In addition to enable more houses to be brought under control the increase of staff has permitted more supervisory visits to known houses in multiple occupation. The number of houses now definitely known to be in multiple occupation and being regularly visited is 355 but very large sections of the Borough remain to be surveyed.

TABLE VIII

Houses in Multiple Occupation — Action Taken

Notices Served

Section 90, Housing Act, 1957 (Abatement of overcrowding)	1
Section 19, Housing Act, 1961 (Directions to prevent or reduce overcrowding)	23
Section 15, Housing Act, 1961 (Provision of additional facilities)	14
Section 16, Housing Act, 1961 (Provision of satisfactory means of escape from fire)	17
Section 12, Housing Act, 1961 (Management Orders)	3
Section 60, Housing Act, 1969 (Closing orders where means of escape cannot be provided at reasonable cost)	10
Section 14, Housing Act, 1961 (Remedy of neglect of proper standards of management)	3

Compliance with notices

Overcrowding Section 90	..	..	..	..	..	1
Section 19	..	..	..	..	..	17
Provision of additional facilities (Section 15)				..	..	13
Provision of means of escape from fire (Section 16)					..	13
Remedy of neglect (Section 14)		..	..	..	..	3

C.R. Cresswell, C.Eng., M.Inst.F., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector.

AIR POLLUTION, NOISE CONTROL AND FACTORIES

Introduction

There have been numerous new and interesting developments during the year as is inevitable with subjects such as air pollution and noise where our knowledge is constantly expanding and is far from complete. In this respect we are grateful to the Borough Librarian and his staff for the assistance we receive regularly in tracing and obtaining copies of various technical papers from home and overseas. The value of these papers as a source of new knowledge is considerable and of great assistance in providing ideas of what means may be available to reduce unusual but important emissions of pollutants.

The appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector was made in November, and the successful applicant will commence his duties early in January. This addition to the staff will enable us to push ahead more quickly with the anti-pollution measures in which people are showing an ever increasing interest.

Industrial Air Pollution

With the exception of a few and special processes, mostly outside our control, the emphasis is gradually moving away from smoke and visible emissions towards eliminating or reducing grit and dust emissions, odours and the invisible pollutants. The need for routine inspections of the district to discover smoking chimneys has completely disappeared. Chimneys attached to industrial or commercial premises which are smoking stand out clearly and are seen and dealt with by inspectors moving about the Borough in the course of their other duties.

Last year's recession and consequent reluctance of industry to spend money on pollution control equipment has largely disappeared and a considerable amount of new and improved plant has been installed by a variety of firms throughout the Borough. Unfortunately, despite the high cost of equipment the standard of maintenance is still appallingly low and regular inspections are necessary in order to constantly remind firms of their obligations in this respect. As a typical

example, six cold blast cupolas inspected by one inspector in the week immediately following the shut down for annual holidays, were found to be in need of new baffles fitted to the wet arresters.

Iron foundries, of course, produce considerable pollution from a variety of processes and activities and, in consequence, lack of attention to maintenance quickly leads to nuisances of one type or another. The only iron foundry sited in a Smoke Control Area at present has cold blast cupolas fitted with oil fired after-burners continuously operated whilst the furnaces are in use. This considerably reduces the invisible emissions and odours and has to date enabled the foundry to continue operating without extending the height of the cupolas; something which would otherwise be unavoidable due to extensive housing development on adjoining higher ground.

Complaints have been received from residents on a new estate situated in an adjoining Borough, of smoke, fume and odours from another large foundry. Due to the type of iron produced the firm operate with a very low coke ratio and it has proved impossible to obtain combustion in the cupola shaft even with the aid of after-burners. Although the cupolas terminate at some 70' above ground level the adjoining foundry buildings are approximately 60' high, and down draught caused the wet plume to sink to the ground very quickly. An independent chimney terminating 120' above ground level has been installed and although the plume does not disperse as well as hoped under certain meteorological conditions, the times when nuisance is caused are now comparatively rare.

A third foundry were granted a 12 months' exemption under Section 21, Clean Air Act, 1956 and Schedule 1, Clean Air Act, 1968, in respect of a chimney attached to a new type of oil fired furnace used for melting iron. Unfortunately, the desired results could not be obtained from the proto-type furnace and the firm are now proceeding to install a new cold blast cupola of standard design.

Equipment to measure grit and dust burdens in chimneys and flues was on order at the end of the year. It is hoped during 1973, possibly following new legislation, to take a further step forward in dealing with the problem of grit and dust emissions from premises

where the material being heated adds to the emission. The value of this work may be doubted by some but it is only by the reduction and elimination of this type of pollution that we shall have a clearer appreciation of the grit and dust pollution problems remaining to be eliminated.

The Summer brought a rush of complaints concerning damage to vegetation in gardens attached to private dwellings. There were four areas of complaint, not linked in any way, apart from the time factor, and although industrial pollution was blamed by many members of the public no evidence to support this supposition could be found. The residents of one area of the Borough felt so strongly about the damage to their gardens and their environment as a whole, that they held a series of public meetings and eventually a Committee was formed under the chairmanship of the local Vicar. The Committee consists of six local industrialists, six residents, a ward councillor, the assistant cleansing superintendent and the senior inspector responsible for air pollution and noise control. It had met three times by the end of the year and at least it can no longer be said that the industrialists and the public involved do not understand one another's points of view.

It is believed that the source of fluorine compounds which have caused some etching of glass in house windows of one area has now been located and new chimneys which will disperse these compounds should be erected in 1973.

Efforts are continuing to eliminate the emission of dark smoke from industrial bonfires in contravention of Section 1, Clean Air Act, 1968. These have proved successful, generally, and particularly in scrap metal recovery, but difficulties are still experienced on demolition sites. Demolition contracting firms are mainly small businesses with few employees of the type who change their employment frequently and this makes enforcement by education difficult. Eight contractors were successfully prosecuted in 1972 and two other firms in conjunction with the District Alkali Inspector for dark smoke arising from the burning of insulation from electric cable.

As always, it is impossible to categorise the various complaints received during the year, but undoubtedly the numbers received were less than in 1971. The total number of industrial complaints

and petitions received relating to the various aspects of air pollution was 89.

In 23 cases notices were served relating to smoke emissions (Section 30 Clean Air Act, 1956) and in 8 instances, Abatement Notices relating to smoke (Section 16, Clean Air Act, 1956), grit, dust or effluvia, (Sections 92 and 93, Public Health Act, 1936).

The Irony Aluminium Industry

Under the Alkali etc. Works Order, 1971, control over works in which aluminium or aluminium alloys are separated from ferrous metals by liquation in sloping hearth furnaces, passed from the Alkali Inspectorate to the Corporation. Most of the work is carried out on a small scale by scrap metal dealers and the like. At present there are four firms in West Bromwich recovering aluminium by this method, but a further two are equipped with furnaces and a third is in the process of installing a new furnace.

The principal pollutant is smoke, but, by the correct use of a properly designed after burning chamber, it is possible to keep emissions to a very low level. The fuel in all cases is distillate oil, so that pollution by sulphur dioxide is relatively unimportant. There may, under certain circumstances, be some emission of metallic oxides which are undesirable, but the work we are currently doing to measure concentrations of heavy metals in the atmosphere, will assist in deciding whether these emissions create a hazard.

New Equipment

Twenty-one notifications of intention to install new furnaces and applications for prior approval were received during the year. Chimney heights were agreed in respect of forty-three new furnaces and one replacement chimney. Of the furnaces notified, thirty-three were oil-fired, eight gas fired, one was an incinerator and one a replacement cold blast cupola.

There seems little doubt that even after fifteen years from the introduction of the Clean Air Act, 1956, new furnaces of all types are being installed regularly without the notification required under Section 3. This is confirmed when giving talks to works engineers and

similar people in industry on pollution control, they are invariably surprised when this requirement is explained to them.

Alkali Registered Premises

In March, the Secretary of State for the Department of the Environment rejected our application requesting the control over the emissions from three premises to be transferred from the Chief Alkali and Clean Air Inspector to the Corporation. This is the third unsuccessful application made by the Corporation since the Clean Air Act, 1956 became operative, and was the most modest.

The three premises which were the subject of the application were :—

- (1) A small coal-fired electricity generating station.
- (2) A scrap metal yard equipped with two furnaces registered for recovery of metal from scrap cable by burning off the insulation and
- (3) A firm using a small electric furnace for the smelting of steel.

In none of the processes did it appear that technical problems arose in controlling pollution to atmosphere but this together with “the comprehensive expertise of the Inspectorate” were the reasons given by the Secretary of State for refusing the application.

In spite of what was said by the Department of the Environment representative at the Inquiry into the then proposed Alkali etc., Works Regulation Order, 1971, there now seems little doubt that Local Authorities are not going to receive much encouragement in their attempts to widen their control over sources of air pollution, whether there is technical difficulty or no. Perhaps the greater strength, at least in terms of population, which will follow re-organisation in 1974 will provide grounds for transfer from the Chief Alkali Inspector to the Chief Public Health Inspector of the new district council.

Since there can be no doubt of the ability of the officers of the department to deal satisfactorily with the industries which we sought to have transferred we can only conclude the decision was one of policy. Nevertheless we welcome the investigation into the qualifications and training of staff engaged on pollution control work to be undertaken by

the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution for this is a subject which requires special qualifications and training.

Smoke Control

Smoke Control Areas 20 and 21 became operative on 1st December. The two areas covered 896 acres and included 563 houses, 34, industrial premises and 3 commercial properties.

Areas 22, 23, 24 and 25 were all approved by the Council and the first three Orders confirmed by the Secretary of State to become operative on 1st October, 1973.

The Order in respect of Area 25 had been submitted to the Secretary of State before the end of the year and confirmation is anticipated in January or early February. Three-hundred and one acres are covered by these latest four areas, while the number of dwellings involved is 2,990, the industrial premises 6 and the commercial properties 36. When these Orders become operative the proportion of dwellings in the Borough under Smoke Control will be 32% and 26% of the total acreage will be covered.

The current areas being dealt with are small as they have been designed to clarify the boundaries of existing older areas or to join them together and thereby prevent confusion in the minds of the public, fuel merchants and others affected by the restrictions. One more area of this type, in Great Barr, remains to be controlled and then it should be possible to push ahead with a single large area each year, the size and number of properties involved being subject only to the staff and money available.

Proceedings were instituted against one coal merchant and one householder for selling by retail, and acquiring, bituminous coal in a Smoke Control Area, in contravention of Section 9, Clean Air Act, 1968. Although our inspector had seen three bags of coal delivered and a fourth in the course of delivery, the Court accepted a plea of not guilty on the grounds of error on the part of the coal merchant's mate who had been making the delivery. A request for costs by the Defendants was refused.

The West Bromwich Clean Air Council

The Council held their annual meeting at the College of Commerce and Technology, Rigby Street in April, when Mr. J. Riding, a Noise Consultant gave an interesting and useful address on Noise Control to a considerable gathering of officers and representatives from local industries.

The policy of providing speakers to various interested bodies in the Borough continues successfully and it is hoped that as the result of this work a few more members of the public and industry are better informed on the subjects of air pollution and noise. This service is being extended in 1973 by offering assistance to appropriate schools in the Borough. Some talks have already been given while a large number of individual students carrying out projects involving air pollution or noise control have been given advice and guidance.

In June the Council were represented by the Secretary and Assistant Secretary at a Joint Meeting of the Clean Air Advisory Councils held in Chesterfield. The meeting was addressed by Mr. G.I. Fuller, Secretary of the Clean Air Council, a national body presided over by a Minister in the Department of the Environment. Each Council then provided a Speaker to talk for five minutes on some aspect of air pollution or noise control work in which they were particularly interested.

Measurement of Pollution

The measurement of smoke and sulphur dioxide proceeds at five sites with daily volumetric machines, three of which are of the eight port type. The Voluntary conversions from the use of bituminous coal to the more convenient gas, electricity or oil by householders and industrialists quietly continues. This, together with the efforts of our Inspectors in the industrial field and the smoke control programme, is illustrated by the results shown in the two graphs. The first shows the average monthly figures for the whole of the Borough while the second clearly indicates the downward trend over the years.

I am again indebted to those who have co-operated in making sites available at the following premises :—

The Chest Clinic, Heath Lane, West Bromwich.

The Cemetery, Alexandra Road, Tipton.

Grove Vale Junior School, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 6JE. also to

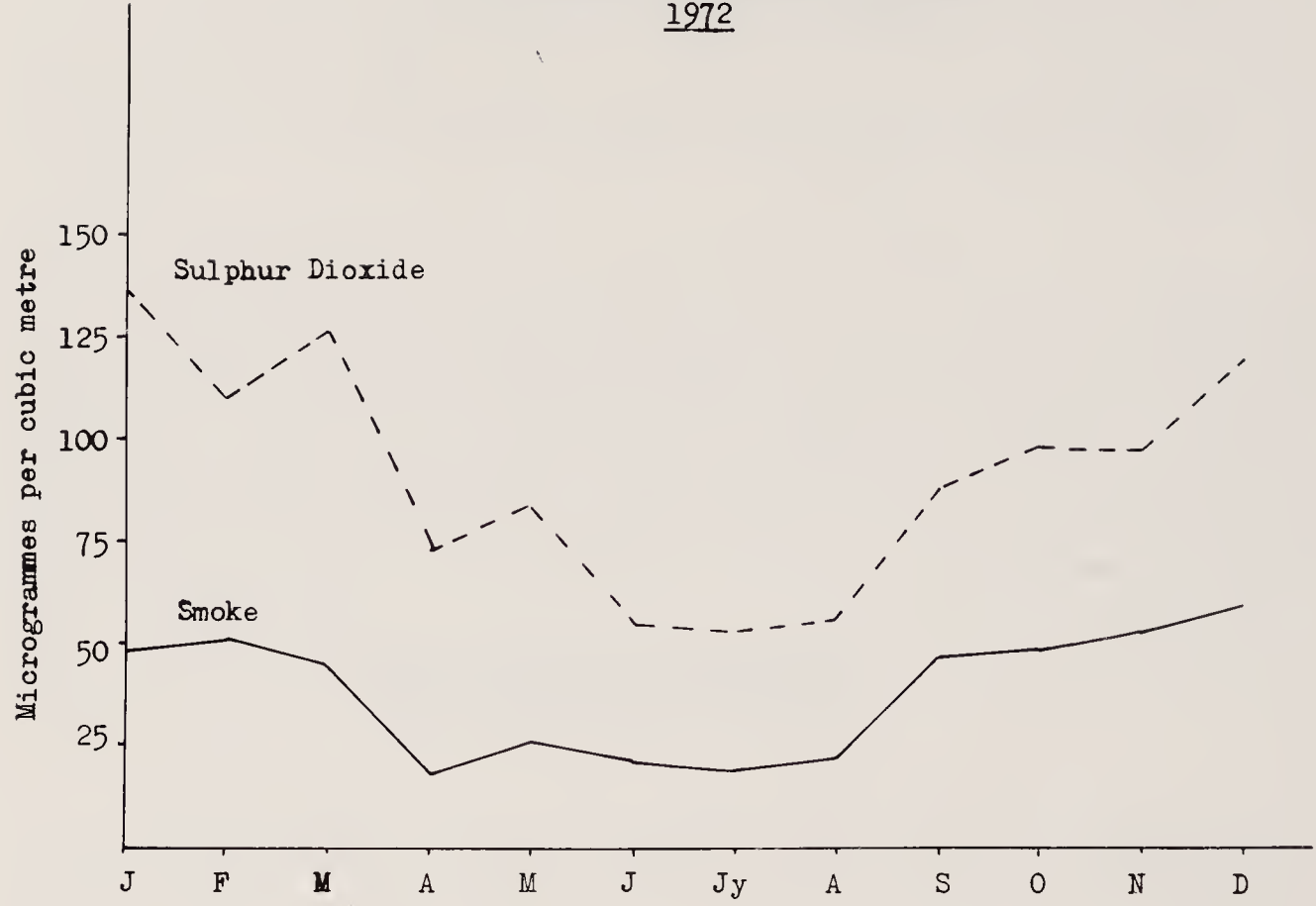
Delta Diecastings Limited, Greet's Green, West Bromwich who made daily readings at their Nelson Works on our behalf.

As before, whenever complaints of excessive pollution by smoke or sulphur are received and it is considered that measurement would be of assistance in satisfying complainants or furthering our investigations a portable volumetric machine is used. In no area where such measurements were taken were higher concentrations of smoke or sulphur discovered than were already being obtained from our permanent measurement sites.

Average Yearly Concentrations
for Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide



Average Monthly Concentrations
for Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide
1972



Routine measurements for heavy metals in the atmosphere were commenced in August and will continue into 1973. By the end of the year measurement at eight sites had been completed but at the time of preparing this Report the results from only four are available and given below in micrograms/m³.

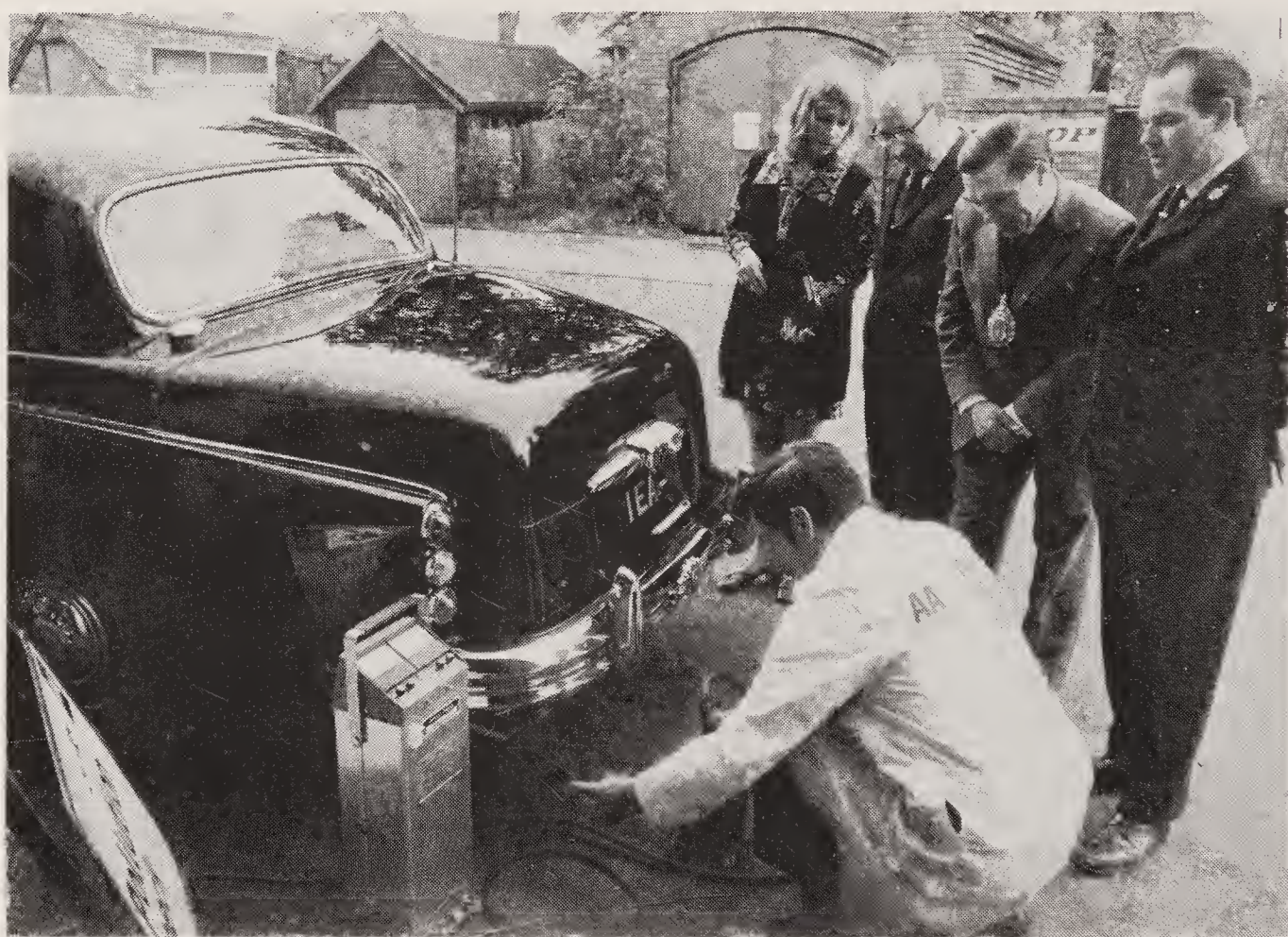
Pollutant	Greets Green Library	Atlas Grove Greets Green	New Road Tipton	Coneygre Tipton
Cadmium	0.15	0.18	0.085	0.60
Copper	0.32	0.18	0.95	1.41
Iron	0.55	0.34	2.08	3.89
Lead	0.95	0.81	0.60	0.92
Nickel	0.99	0.77	0.53	0.92
Chromium	absent	absent	0.60	0.71
Zinc	not known	not known	1.73	2.68

There is a paucity of information on the subject of metals in the atmosphere and it is difficult to obtain reliable, up-to-date comparative data. Most of the published results to-date relate to work carried out a number of years ago and in areas that could not be compared with such a heavily industrialised area as West Bromwich. However, other Midland Authorities are carrying out measurements and Warren Spring Laboratory (Department of Trade and Industry) intend doing some measurements on selected industrial sites in the Midlands during 1973, so reliable comparative results should be available shortly. In the meantime, investigations are being carried out at various industrial premises employing processes which could give rise to metallic emissions of one kind or another.

The Chief Alkali Inspector in his Annual Report for 1971 published figures for lead and zinc in eleven cities ranging from Bristol and Cardiff to Glasgow and Edinburgh. The results were obtained from smoke stains provided by various local authorities but the filter papers used do not trap small particles efficiently, and the variability of the blank levels obtained from large numbers of such papers is considerable, so that the results cannot be as accurate as those obtained by direct measurement. It is interesting to note, however, that the Chief Inspector reported an average of 0.71 ug/m³ lead and 2.52ug/m³ zinc

based upon our measuring sites at Tipton Cemetery and our offices in Lombard Street West. Our nearest neighbours involved in the same exercise were reported to have sites averaging 0.51 ug/m^3 for lead and 2.79 ug/m^3 for zinc.

Along with three other West Midland Boroughs we co-operated, under the auspices of National Society for Clean Air, in an extensive road vehicle exhaust monitoring exercise. A large number of vehicles were tested for emissions of hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide and it was found that approximately 60% of the vehicles examined would not have passed the proposed E.E.C. limit of 4.5% carbon monoxide.



H.W. The Mayor watching with interest as the exhaust emission from his car is tested

*(Photograph by Courtesy of the Express and Star)
Wolverhampton.*

General Noise

Sixty-seven complaints of excessive noise were received and investigated. As always, noise nuisance is most noticeable late at night or in the early morning, so that a large number of visits and measurements were made outside normal working hours.

Section 75, West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1969, continues to be effective in reducing noise emitted from mobile air compressors and mobile air powered tools. It was only necessary to institute proceedings against one contractor who pleaded guilty, and was fined £10 with costs. Warnings were issued to contractors working in the area for the first time and unaware of the special powers in the West Bromwich Corporation Act, 1969. In a few instances new muffles were required to replace worn and dilapidated ones which were no longer effective.

We have maintained our close relationship with the Borough Engineer's planning department. This provides the most valuable method of preventing unnecessary industrial noise from being created. All plans received by the Borough Engineer are examined with a view to ascertaining if the proposed development is likely to increase noise levels in the area. In a few cases refusal of development is recommended while in others attempts are made to get machines resited or construction changed in order to reduce the possibility of nuisance. Visits have been made to firms proposing to come into West Bromwich and noise measurements taken so that we are in a better position to appreciate special problems and make practical suggestions. This work takes up a considerable amount of time but must make a worthwhile contribution to the control of industrial noise before irrevocable action, such as the installation of heavy machinery has taken place.

West Midlands Noise Survey

We participated in a co-ordinated survey of background noise carried out by fifteen West Midlands Local Authorities, during June and July. The summer months were deliberately chosen at the time when noise complaints are most frequent.

Measurements were made at the intersections of a 3km grid and were taken during defined time periods, viz: Daytime (between 10 a.m.

and 12 noon or 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.), evening (between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.) and night (between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.) A minimum of three on different weekdays.

The level recorded as the background level was defined as “that sound level below which the actual noise at the testing site falls for only 10% of the time during a reasonable period of observation”, and the “A” weighting network (which represents subjective response to noise) was used throughout.

Sites were classified as 1–6 in accordance with Clause 4.3.3 of B.S.4142. The average results for the five sites in West Bromwich were as follows :—

B.S. 4142 Clause 4.3.3.	Day	Evening	Night
1	55	52	42
3	43	44	31
4	40	41	29
4	42	38	26
6	46	42	39

Traffic Noise

The measurement of traffic noise from the M.5 and M.6 motorways was continued into 1972. The task of obtaining the L.10, the noise level exceeded for 10% of the time, over an 18 hour period commencing at 6 a.m. and terminating at midnight, being facilitated by the purchase of a Bruel and Kjaer 2209 Sound Level Meter and a Uher tape recorder. The tapes on which the traffic noise is recorded are analysed on our behalf by the Staff of Aston University. This method produces a more accurate result and avoids the tedious and time consuming work involved in calculating the L.10 arithmetically from hundreds of individual readings taken at hourly intervals.

Early in the year traffic noise measurements were taken at nine different sites adjoining urban roads throughout the Borough to assist the Borough Engineer (planning department) in the preparation of the Structure Plan. The results obtained are shown below and although the Department of the Environment has now indicated that they are prepared to accept an L.10 of 70 dBA as a criterion, the difference that would be involved in using a L.10 of 65 dBA is also shown.

Location	Average L.10 from 6 a.m. to midnight in dBA	Distance from highway for L.10 of 70 dBA at building facade (in metres)	Distance from highway for L.10 of 65 dBA at building facade (in metres)
Vicarage Road West Bromwich	66	Less than 10	13
Newton Road Great Barr	69	Less than 10	17
Walsall Road, West Bromwich	72	13	22
Wednesbury Oak Road Tipton	75	19	31
Holloway Bank, Wednesbury	77	22	39
Burnt Tree Tipton	79	28	49
Holyhead Road Wednesbury	74	30	53
Wood Green Road Wednesbury	81	34	61
Birmingham Road West Bromwich	80	35	63

The results on average were much higher than anticipated and shows there are numerous existing householders subjected to traffic noise levels well in excess of accepted criteria. This suggests that we are accepting noise levels which may be too high for our general well-being.

“Putting People First”

The Department of the Environment White Paper “Development and Compensation – Putting People First” together with the Urban Motorways Committee Report “New Roads in Towns” were welcome. The hazard of traffic noise is fully recognised and it is accepted that the potential effect of noise must be taken into account at the planning and construction stage of new roads. Suggestions include the provision of barriers or mounds and, when there is serious hardship, purchase of affected properties by agreement. If a new road reduces the value of a house permanently and significantly, the owner can claim compensation. Owners of houses also have a new right to sound insulation of living

rooms and bedrooms where traffic on new or improved roads has raised noise levels above a stipulated value. The criterion to be used initially is an L₁₀ of 70 dBA measured at the facade of the dwelling over an eighteen hour period. This is a lower standard than we recommended for the residential land to be developed adjoining the M5 in 1971, here a criterion of 65 dBA was recommended as being midway between what was highly desirable and what is known to be unacceptable to the majority of people. However, the White Paper does suggest that the specified level should be kept under review to allow for changes to be adopted as found necessary.

There is a second provision to cover situations where road improvements have been carried out. If the noise climate is increased due to highway improvements certain persons are entitled to compensation. Here it is not a question of establishing whether a criterion is being exceeded but simply whether the noise levels have been increased. Owners and occupiers of residential property and owner-occupiers of small business premises will be eligible to receive compensation for any significant depreciation in the value of their property caused by road improvements.

As a result of these new proposals we shall be considerably more involved in the measurement of traffic noise. Formulae exist for the prediction of traffic noise but they are only reliable when the traffic is free flowing and travelling fairly quickly. Accordingly, in most road improvement schemes actual measurements on site before the work commences will be essential.

The first road improvement scheme affected by these proposals was the widening of Tenscore Street due to commence at the end of the year. A series of five, eighteen hour measurements were taken at selected sites along the length of this existing road and the results have been filed for reference when the works of improvement are completed.

Construction of the Northern Loop Road is well advanced and it is anticipated that the road will be open for use during the first six months of 1973. As many properties could be adversely affected by noise from this highway a series of eighteen hour readings will be taken along its length early in the new year.

Factories Act, 1961

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices	No. of Prosecutions
1. Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	10	4	—	—
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	910	472	33	—
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers premises)	3	2	—	—
Totals	923	478	33	0

Cases in which Defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.I.	Referred by H.M.I.
Ineffective drainage of floors (s6)	—	—	—	—
San. conveniences (s7)				
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	33	35	—	16
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—
Totals	33	35	0	16

Inspection of factories under the Factories Act is a statutory obligation and in general the condition of the sanitary accommodation was found to be satisfactory. It is appreciated that in factories where the processes involved are of a dirty nature, the keeping of sanitary accommodation in particular, in a scrupulously clean condition at all times and in good decorative order, is a problem which requires frequent attention.

Out-Workers

A total of 211 out-workers are employed on carding of buttons hooks and eyes, hair grips and similar light repetitive handwork.

C. C. Wilkes, M.A.P.H.I.
Senior Public Health Inspector

FOOD AND DRUGS

During the year under review 1294 Notices were served requiring the carrying out of work at food premises and on mobile shops. Failure to comply with the requirements of the Notices resulted in seven prosecutions under the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations. In only two instances was it found necessary to institute proceedings following an initial visit by an Inspector. In all other cases one or more written warnings were ignored.

The long-promised Regulations, controlling the temperature at which foods must be kept, referred to in last year's report, are regrettably still awaited. In spite of the difficulties involved in securing a conviction under existing legislation one successful case was taken for keeping food at a temperature too high for safety. However, until such times as new Regulations are introduced Inspectors can only advise against storing food at temperatures which encourage the rapid multiplication of harmful bacteria.

There is a growing demand by members of the public for increased standards of hygiene and a greater readiness to report unhygienic practices. This is emphasised by a significant increase in the number of complaints which were received during the year.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

Table 1

Regulations	Offence	Result	Fine	Costs
Reg 25 (16 offences) 9, 18 (5 offences) 19 & 21	Dirty floors, walls & ceilings in food rooms. Dirty wash hand basin. Dirty refrigerator	Convicted on 6 charges 17 not guilty	£105.00	—
Reg 25 (2 offences) & 27	Dirty woodwork. Precaution not taken against pests. Meat pies inside statutory temp. limits	Convicted	£ 60.00	£ 6.00
Reg 7 (50 offences) & 16 (4 offences) 18 (3 offences) 22 & 25 (13 offences)	Dirty chicken preparation table. Bacon fridge dirty. Cheese & Butter preparation table dirty. Dirty can opener. Dirty W.C. pan & compartment. Defective wash hand basin, insufficient hot water supply. Inadequate lighting Dirty floors, walls & ceilings in preparation room.	Convicted	£565.00	£ 7.00
Reg 22 & 25 (10 offences)	Dirty floor, walls, ceiling & shelves. Inadequate lighting in food room.	Convicted	£62.00	£ 6.00
Reg. 7 16 25 (4 offences) & 26	Dirty chopping block. No wash hands notices. Dirty meat preparation room ceiling. Dirty warehouse floor. Food store room walls not kept in good order. Inadequate preparations for separation of unfit food.	Convicted	£290.00	£ 8.00
Reg. 6 7 16 (2 offences) 18, 19,20,21 18 & 25 (6 offences)	Insanitary premises. Dirty chipper . No soap, towels, nailbrush or first-aid. No hot water to sink or wash hand basin. Dirty floors, walls & shelving	Convicted	£ 90.00	£10.00
Reg 25 (4 offences)	Dirty & defective floor. Dirty light fittings. Dirty window in fish room.	Convicted	£ 90.00	£10.00
Reg 7 (4 offences) 9 & 25 (4 offences)	Dirty floor, counters & shelving. Dirty wooden tongs. Plastic food bins dirty, food exposed to risk of contamination	Convicted	£240.00	£ 8.00
Reg 7 (2 offences) 21, 25 (9 offences)	Dirty pie tray, food stored in sanitary accommodation. No hot water to sink, dirty preparation room floor. Dirty shop floor	Convicted	£ 91.00	£ 8.00
Total			£1593	£63.00

Delivery Vehicles and Mobile Traders

The number of inspections of food delivery vehicles and mobile shops rose from 347 in 1971 to 563 in 1972. As a result, over 200 notices were served requiring the carrying out of works of improvement or cleaning.

The standard of design, particularly as regards internal fittings and finishes in food carrying vehicles is much better than formerly, similarly the routine cleaning of interiors. Unfortunately, some prosecutions were necessary and in at least seven of these cases it was claimed that "the vehicle was a spare". It would seem obvious that even a "spare" vehicle used for carrying food must be clean and fit for the purpose besides having a Road Fund Licence and being insured.

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations 1966.

Table 11

Regulations	Offence	Result	Fine	Costs
Reg 5	Dirty Vehicle	Convicted	£25.00	£6.00
Regs 5 & 16	Dirty Vehicle. No hot water	Convicted	£50.00	£6.00
Regs 5, 13, 16 &17	Dirty Vehicle. No name & address. No wash-hand basin Inadequate first-aid	Convicted	£34.00	£6.00
Reg 5 (2 offences) 6,13,16 & 17	Vehicle not kept clean and not in such condition to enable it to be cleaned. Dirty equipment. No name & address. No wash-hand basin. Inadequate first-aid kit.	Convicted	£60.00	£6.00
Reg 5 (2 offences) Reg 16 (2 offences) Reg 22	Vehicle not kept clean and not in such condition to enable it to be cleaned. Wash-hand basin not suitable. No nailbrush. No suitable refuse containers.	Convicted	£30.00	£6.00
Reg. 16 Reg. 17	No wash hand basin Inadequate first-aid equipment	Convicted	£20.00	£6.00
Reg 5	Dirty vehicle	Convicted	£30.00	£6.00
Regs 5, 8, 7 & 13	Dirty vehicle. Dirty hands, placing food to involve risk of contamination. No name & address. No hot water to wash hand basin. Wash hand basin not kept clean. No hot water to sink. Sink not kept clean	Convicted	£76.00	£8.00
Reg 5	Dirty vehicle	Convicted	£40.00	£6.00
Reg 5 Reg 16 (2 offences) Reg 18 (2 offences)	Rusty floor to vehicle No proper waste pipe to wash hand basin. No proper waste pipe to sink. No proper hot water to wash hand basin. No proper hot water to sink	Convicted	£30.00	£8.00
Reg 5 Reg 13 & 16	Dirty vehicle. No name & address. No wash hand basin	Case Dismissed		
Reg 5	Dirty Vehicle	Convicted	£40.00	£8.00
Reg 5	Dirty Vehicle	Convicted	£25.00	£8.00
Reg 5, 13	Dirty meat products vehicle No name and address	Convicted	£60.00	£8.00

Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls & Delivery Vehicles) Regulations
1966.

Table II – Continued

Regulations	Offence	Result	Fine	Costs
Reg 5,13	Dirty vehicle No name & address	Convicted	£35.00	£8.00
Reg 5	Dirty meat products vehicle	Convicted	£25.00	£8.00
Reg 8, 9, 16 (3 offences) 17, 13	Food handlers smoking. No suitable overclothing. No nailbrush. No wash hand basin. No hot water to wash hand basin. No first-aid No name and address	Convicted	£105.00	£8.00
Reg 5	Dirty floor to vehicle	Convicted	£50.00	£8.00
Reg 5	Dirty palletts to vehicle	Convicted	£25.00	£8.00
Reg 5 16 & 18	Dirty floor to vehicle. No hot water to sink. No hot water to wash hand basin	Convicted	£40.00	£8.00
Reg 6, 16 18	Dirty Chopper, No wash hand basin. No sink	Convicted	£75.00	£8.00
Reg 5, 16 Reg 22	Vehicle not kept clean Dirty wash hand basin. No waste receptacle	Convicted	£35.00	£8.00
		Total	£910.00	£152.00

Food Complaints

The number of complaints concerning the condition of food rose again for the seventh consecutive year. One hundred and thirty four complaints were received and thoroughly investigated. Twenty six prosecutions resulted from these investigations but more important many improvements were secured in manufacturing and distributing techniques possibly preventing future similar occurrences.

The exposure or possession for sale of unfit food resulted in four prosecutions. Staff engaged in the handling of food should be encouraged to familiarise themselves with food which is “normal” and report conditions which appear abnormal and obtain guidance. Leaflets giving advise on “The Care of Canned Foods” and “The Safe Storage and Handling of Cooked Meats and Meat Products” were prepared and made available to assist shop keepers and others interested.

Food and Drugs Act 1955, Sections 2 and 8

Table III

Section	Offence	Result	Fine	Costs
2	Matchstick in sausage roll	Convicted	£40.00	£6.00
2	Dirt in Cheddar cheese	Convicted	£25.00	£6.00
2	Perspex in biscuit	Convicted	£25.00	£6.00
2	Cigarette end in Corn crisp	Convicted	£50.00	£7.00
2	Stale Bread rolls	Convicted	£ 5.00	£6.00
2	Mouldy Cheese	Convicted	£30.00	£6.00
2	Bread containing grease & Iron particles	Convicted	£25.00	£6.00
2	Sale of unfit cheese slices	Convicted	£10.00	£6.00
2	Steak Pie containing wood	Convicted	£20.00	£6.00
2	Eccles Cake containing screw	Convicted	£20.00	£6.00
2	Indian Brandee containing excess tincture of Capsicam	Convicted	£50.00	£8.00
2	Mouldy Cheddar cheese	Convicted	£15.00	£8.00
2	Silver foil in bottle of milk	Convicted	£15.00	£8.00
2	Matchstick in Bun	Convicted	£70.00	£8.00
2	Hydrogen peroxide in milk	Convicted	£20.00	£8.00
2	Mouldy cheese	Convicted	£30.00	£8.00
2	Hide in Meat Pastie	Convicted	£50.00	£8.00
2	Cement in School Milk	Convicted	£25.00	£8.00
		Total	£525	£125

Food and Drugs Act 1955

Table III

Section	Offence	Result	Fine	Costs
8	Chocolate containing ptinus Larva	Convicted	£10.00	£6.00
8	Exposure for sale of unfit food (canned peaches)	Convicted	£30.00	£6.00
8	Exposure for sale of unfit food (6 offences)	Convicted	£120.00	—
8	Sale of unfit pie	Convicted	£ 20.00	£8.00
8	Sale of unfit sausage rolls	Convicted	£25.00	£8.00
8	Sale of 2 mouldy apple pies	Convicted	£50.00	£8.00
8	In possession, and intended for, but unfit for human consumption — six beefburgers	Convicted	£30.00	—
8	By act or default caused food to be sold in unfit condition	Convicted	£60.00	£10.00
8	Mouldy pork pie	Convicted	£25.00	£8.00
8	Mouldy apple pie	Case Dismissed	(Appeal Pending)	
8	Mouldy cheese spread	Convicted	£20.00	—
8	Possession of unfit food	Convicted	£20.00	—
		Total	£410 00	£54.00

Food Hygiene Education

In addition to statutory commitments a vigorous health education programme has been pursued. Courses have continued at the College of Technology preparing students for the Royal Society of Health Certificate in Food Hygiene.

An offer of talks on the subject of food hygiene to various women's organisations received an overwhelming response. Although these talks involve Inspectors giving up leisure time they are always well rewarded by the excellent attendances and lively discussions. There have also been several lectures to the staff of the larger food companies and to school children. In all, a total of over five hundred persons attended lectures given by Inspectors during the year.

The theme of the Health Education programme during the year was “Hygiene in the Home”. With a recent research project showing that nearly nine million people suffered from food poisoning, stomach upsets and gastro-enteritis in one month it is not realistic to think that all of these people became ill through “eating out”. Many of these cases must have been due to poor hygiene in the home.

In an effort to improve understanding of the principles of food hygiene, a video-tape recorded programme was made by members of the Section for showing on closed-circuit television, and intended for students about to leave school.

The script was written by the Inspectors who also filled the role of actors. The whole project was made possible by the co-operation and active encouragement of N.N. Brown, B.A., Principal of the College of Commerce and Technology.

The efforts of all members of the Section were well rewarded when the Association of Public Health Inspectors invited showings of “Come Home to Hygiene” at their Annual Conference at Blackpool in September. Over three hundred public health inspectors from all parts of the country took time to see it.

With the co-operation of the Director of Education, the tape has now been shown in several schools and we hope to extend our activities in this direction during 1973.



Public Health inspectors on the set during the production of the video tape "Come Home to Hygiene"



The producer and a technician at the control panel

Food Control

A planned programme of food sampling was continued during 1972 and was again principally aimed at food manufactured within the Borough. Of 410 samples taken, 282 were manufactured in West Bromwich. Only four failed to meet the required standard. Three were slightly low in meat content and subsequent formal samples were satisfactory. Only 1.3% of all samples failed to meet the requirements, thus maintaining last year's exceptionally high standard.

Food Inspection

There has been a substantial drop in the quantity of food condemned during 1972 compared with 1971.

	tons	cwts	lbs
Meat at retail shops		9	106
Cooked meats and meat products		—	45
Canned meat		10	12
Other canned food	2	5	49
Frozen foods	2	15	74
Other	1	5	98
	7	7	48

Total weight surrendered in 1971 :

10tons 12½ cwts.

Milk

The number of dealers licensed under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963 / 65 at the end of the year was 253.

Imported Food

Work continues to be carried out under these Regulations with the regular arrival of bulk containers at two food premises within the Borough.

Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963

1. Registration and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered During 1972	Total No. of Premises Registered at the end of 1972	Registered Premises Receiving General Inspection During 1972
Offices	45	343	192
Retail Shops	33	771	415
Wholesale Shops/ Warehouse	12	59	28
Catering Establishments	4	223	124
Fuel Storage Depots	—	5	—
TOTALS	94	1401	759

2. The number of visits of all kinds to premises registered under the Act was 1,873.

3. Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises at the end of 1972.

Class of Premises	No. of Persons Employed 1972
Offices	4131
Retail Shops	3929
Wholesale Shops / Warehouse	904
Catering Establishments	1372
Fuel Storage Depots	44
TOTAL	10380

4. Notification of Accidents

Any accident involving death or disability preventing normal work for three days or more, must be notified. Forty such notifications were received during the year. Considering that over 10,000 persons work in registered premises within the Borough, this is a remarkably low rate. It seems probable that not all accidents are reported.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Table IV

Section	Offence	Result	Fine
Sec 17	Slicing machine not guarded	Convicted	£25.00
Sec 4 (2 offences) & 8	Inadequate lighting. Dirty soap store	Convicted	£ 7.00
Secs 8, 17 & 16	No light in lift. No guard on slicer. Lift floor dirty	Convicted	£135.00
Secs 4 & 16 (3 offences)	Dirty walls & ceiling. Dangerous threshold to cellar steps. Defective floors	Convicted	£60.00
	TOTAL		£227.00

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises (Hoists & Lifts
Regulations) 1968.

Table V

Section	Offence	Result	Fine	Costs
Regs. 5 & 8	Lift not properly maintained not marked with correct loading	Convicted	£20.00	£31.68
Reg. 5	Alarm bell defective	Convicted	£75.00	—
	TOTALS		£95.00	£31.68

A. Mercer, M.A.P.H.I.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector
Meat Hygiene

MEAT HYGIENE

Review

The year 1972, although in many ways a period of development and improvement, did not quite fulfil the expectations of the meat trade, and indeed it finished on a note of considerable anxiety with forecasts of livestock shortages, rising prices and the outbreak of an almost unknown infectious pig disease, Swine Vesicular.

During a debate on slaughtering in the House of Commons in February, 1972 it was stated "That the overriding aim of any slaughterhouse policy should be to ensure that slaughter-houses conform to standards which meet the requirements of public health and hygiene, so that consumers could be satisfied that they were getting clean meat". The highest standards attainable have always been our aim in West Bromwich, and this has been considerably advanced in the past twelve months with the near completion of large improvement schemes in three of five slaughterhouses.

Improvements

One large company has carried out extensive improvements with the construction of a completely new pig slaughterhouse, fully mechanised on a line system with a moving rail for carcasses and trays for the conveyance and inspection of offals. Separate from the pig slaughtering area are new beef and sheep lines, mechanised according to the best slaughterhouse practice. By-products are removed from the slaughtering area by stainless steel chutes to the floor below ensuring complete separation of the by-products section. Another feature of this complex is a meat cutting room equipped with temperature control and a stainless steel conveyor for cut meats.

These premises are designed to meet the very high standards prescribed by the European Economic Community before dressed carcass meat or cut meat can be admitted to these countries.

Other companies have been involved in carrying out considerable improvement programmes, which included better hot water supplies, floor and wall surfaces, washing and cutting facilities.

Throughput

Throughput has again been kept at a very high level, although slightly less than last year because the alterations already mentioned necessitated temporary slaughtering facilities elsewhere. The pig kill was slightly above last year even though there was a considerable shortage of pigs for slaughter. Consumer resistance to rising prices also adversely affected the amount of slaughtering.

Co-operation

Throughout the year liaison with the meat trade has again been excellent and my appreciation is extended to the management of the various firms for their continued co-operation.

Of all the different sections of local government, the meat inspection staff are probably more closely integrated with industry than any others and must yet remain independent. This is not always easy, different aims and opinions have to be recognised, respected and lived with and the highest standards for the public benefit always diligently sought.

Inspectorate

The Meat Inspectorate was strengthened during the year by the appointment of another Senior Inspector and the addition to the team of one more Authorised Meat Inspector.

Two additional new posts have been authorised to be filled when they are required in order to meet the consequences of further mechanisation of slaughtering and to ensure a safe meat supply.

Condemnations and Disease

A matter which causes some concern is the amount of meat condemned. In 1971 311-tons, in 1972 369-tons, an increase of 17%.

When this is mentally converted into money, or into the needs of those without food, it must raise the question can more be done on the farm to reduce these losses?

Much of this animal wastage is due to parasites such as liver flukes and round worms. Their life-cycle has been well-known for many years but losses continue. Perhaps the higher values for meat animals will encourage better husbandry in the future.

Tail-biting amongst pigs caused the condemnation of 2000 pounds weight of pig meat due to abscesses arising from this habit which could be prevented by tail "docking" at birth.

Warble fly too is much in evidence. In one slaughterhouse nearly one quarter (1000) of the hides were affected. In Ireland, this unnecessary source of loss and wastage has been eliminated and compulsory control measures exist on the Continent. It would seem that a new Warble fly (Dressing of Cattle) Order is needed, here.

From our 1972 statistics the incidence of tuberculosis in pigs has doubled to 7,097 infections in a kill of 346,636 pigs, approximately 2%, not a lot, but a 100% increase on 1971 figures. On five occasions when heavy infections of batches of pigs were involved, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were notified of details, and invariably avian tuberculosis was confirmed, except for one occasion when a bovine strain was identified.

One pleasing item of interest is the reduction in the incidence of cysticercus bovis, only seven localised infections being recorded. Also, only two infections of tuberculosis in bovine animals were confirmed, one bovine and one avian. In both instances full details of the slaughtered animals were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.



Abscesses in the hindquarter of a pig from tail bites

Pathology

Three specimens of diseased organs and meat were submitted to the pathological laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at Wolverhampton for examination. One revealed an interesting case of lymphosarcoma in a pig's kidney and another demonstrated bovine eosinophilic myositis in the muscle tissue of an ox, a relatively rare condition of cattle but of some significance in meat inspection. The skeletal muscles are the only organs involved, and no symptoms are shown in the living animal. The carcass flesh is green in colour and infiltrated with eosinophil cells, making it unmarketable.

The condition has been known for a number of years but the cause remains obscure.

New Legislation

New legislation which will considerably affect the licensing of slaughterhouses and slaughter house policy of many Local Authorities

in the near future was introduced in August, 1972, when the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1972 received Royal Assent. The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958 is amended to remove the Minister's control of licences from 1st January, 1974. Local Authorities will then be the sole authority to grant licences subject to compliance with the relevant Hygiene and Construction Requirements and By-laws.

Education

Principally, education in meat inspection was for our own students, and this took up a considerable amount of time. Also, lectures were given to management students of one of the larger meat companies.

With the reduction of slaughterhouses in neighbouring Authorities, the demand for students' facilities in meat inspection is growing considerably and it is envisaged that greater demands will be made in the future.

Transport

One aspect of meat supply still gives cause for concern — the butcher who willingly and perhaps thoughtlessly, given the opportunity, will carry a carcass of lamb or part of a side of beef in the boot of his car along side all the other paraphernalia there. This negates all the effort and expense directed towards the presentation of clean and safe meat to this self same butcher and his customer.

Disease of Animals

Unfortunately, the year ended on a disastrous note, with an epidemic of Swine Vesicular disease. This outbreak, first mistaken for Foot and Mouth Disease, was recognised at a farm near Stafford just before Christmas, when the demand for pork and movement of animals was at its highest (see Disease of Animals Report).

Meat (Sterilisation) Regulations, 1969

There are no processors of unfit meat within the County Borough area, and so the method of transport and the eventual destination of unfit meat is always carefully checked.

In order to see the destination and disposal of unfit meat from slaughterhouses, two visits were made to processors' premises outside the area, one being to a large pet food manufacturer. The visits were well worthwhile and left no doubt about the effectiveness of sterilisation of unfit meat leaving our slaughterhouses. Pet food is big business and the methods employed for sterilisation of the meat were most impressive.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1958

On the 31st December 1972 there were 49 slaughtermen licensed by the Council under the Act. All are engaged in licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. This is a reduction from 63 in 1971.

There are no Muslim or Jewish slaughterhouses or slaughtermen in the area. This is rather strange, particularly as we have a significant Muslim population. It would appear that supplies of meat slaughtered in accordance with religious ritual are derived from outside sources. All slaughterhouses are equipped in accordance with the legislation and no prosecutions were made during the year.

Disease of Animals Act, 1950 — Swine Vesicular Disease Outbreak

On Monday 11th December, 1972 an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease, later to be identified as Swine Vesicular, was confirmed at Woodshill Farm, Marston, Staffs, and a 10 mile infected area was declared in accordance with the Foot and Mouth Disease Orders.

On Tuesday 12th December, 1972 a further outbreak of the disease was confirmed at a slaughterhouse in Chase Terrace, Staffs. The boundaries of the infected area were extended and included West Bromwich and Birmingham.

Since the beginning of the outbreak to the end of the year there were 10 confirmed outbreaks within an infected area covering the central Midlands, parts of Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Derbyshire. Restrictions on the movement of livestock had to be intensified at a time of the year, just prior to Christmas, when there was probably the greatest annual movement of livestock for

shows marketing and slaughtering. With the large concentration of slaughtering in West Bromwich and the exceptional Christmas demands for meat, particularly pork, the problems of control of animal movement and meat inspection were intensified. This necessitated week-end and sometimes nearly 12 hours per day working for meat inspectors and staff dealing with the cleaning and disinfection of livestock transporters. A vehicle cleansing station was improvised at the Sheepwash Lane Cleansing Depot in order that this important means of preventing the spread of infection could be operated by the Local Authority and secure the proper disposal of litter from the vehicles.

Between December 11th and 31st 600 cattle, 3000 sheep and 10,500 pigs were slaughtered and inspected in the County Borough authorised by 485 movement licences. At the same time 107 animal transporters were washed and disinfected under our supervision. Three animal transporters travelling through the County Borough without licenses were escorted from the motorway and the animals slaughtered by arrangement with one of our Companies.

The whole operation was carried out very willingly despite the necessity for long hours of work at short notice and with the full help and co-operation of the police, other sections of the department and the slaughterhouse operators.

The above report gives some indication of the full implications of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth or similar disease and the emergency work necessary in a Diseases of Animals authority.



*Animal Transporters being cleansed and disinfected at Sheepwash Lane
Depot during outbreak of Swine Vesicular Disease.*

(Photograph by courtesy of Express & Star)

Animal Health & Welfare

With the advent of Swine Vesicular disease towards the end of the year, particular attention was paid to the swill feeding arrangements of certain pig producers. Such points as the possibility of contamination between boiled and raw swill, boiling periods, disinfection and general hygiene were looked at carefully and advice given where necessary.

Concern was expressed throughout the country about the direct connection of the outbreak and spread of animal disease with “swill feeding”, especially in the rearing of pigs, and it is obvious that a more rigid control of swill processing is necessary.

Legislation in itself is not enough, because its administration is so difficult. To properly enforce the Waste Foods Orders an Inspector would need to be present at every boiling of swill.

A “processor’s” central depot from where pasteurised swill could be purchased by the pig farmers is worthy of consideration. Sterilisation of all unfit meat for pet foods is now a reality, is it not possible to devise ways and means for “swill-fed” pigs to receive the same protection from infection as domestic pets?

Poultry Slaughtering

There is one large poultry processing plant in the County Borough area with an output in 1972 of 710,164 birds.

Chickens	...	319,900
Hens	...	376,098
Turkeys	...	11,111
Geese	...	3,055

Of these birds, 9,148 (comprising 14½ tons) were rejected as being unfit for human consumption.

Since 1969, throughput of poultry has nearly doubled, and although the premises are not congested, the time is fast approaching according to the recent growth rate, when some enlargement and redesign will be necessary.

Plans would now be in hand for this purpose if it were not for the uncertainty of the future of the poultry industry. With E.E.C. controls imminent and the possible requirement of evisceration of poultry at the processor's premises and the eventual control of such premises by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, desired improvements and developments are at a standstill.

There is a preference in this area for a "New York" dressed bird and this particular firm are versatile enough to provide for this market and also to cope with the slaughter of turkeys and geese.

They are equipped with ample cooling and refrigeration facilities and have a quick turnover of fresh poultry. One wonders about the need for evisceration at the point of processing for in localised trading there is room for different types of dressing always providing they are accomplished to a high standard and quality.

One important development during the year was the appointment of an authorised meat inspector for the inspection of poultry. Inspection is carried out on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health Circular 22/61 which allows for a system of scrutiny by a "spotter" under the general oversight of the local authority.

There was an increase of 200% in the weight of condemned fowl. This was largely due to the poor quality of fowl sent in from hen farms. Nearly 8,000 hens were condemned as against 1,000 chickens.

Farmers should take the trouble to "cull" out their hens before sending them for slaughter, the majority were rejected on grounds of emaciation.

Carcasses Inspected and Unfit Meat Surrendered

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	25,731	75	1,073	73,743	346,636
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole Carcasses rejected	5	3	23	55	798
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	10,771	51	23	8,591	142,674
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	42.0	68.0	2.1	11.6	41.1
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole Carcasses rejected	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	2	—	—	—	7,097
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.007	—	—	—	2.04
CYSTICERCI					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was rejected	7	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to refrigeration	7	—	—	—	—

Percentage of Food Animals affected by Tuberculosis

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Cattle (excluding cows)	0.014	0.004	.002	.007
Cows	—	—	—	—
Calves	—	—	—	—
Pigs	1.5	1.03	1.3	2.04

Summary of Carcasses Inspected

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Cattle (excluding cows)	21,587	23,726	25,595	25,731
Cows	111	173	77	75
Calves	1,999	1,853	1,508	1,073
Sheep	89,180	84,414	83,707	73,743
Pigs	299,090	341,046	345,491	346,636
TOTALS	411,967	451,212	456,378	447,183

Total Weight of Meat and Offal Surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

	1969	1970	1971	1972
Tons	265	248	311	368

William Cunningham, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Associate Chief Public Health Inspector.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Nuisances

The detection and abatement of nuisances remains an important function of the Public Health Inspector despite the existence of specific legislation dealing with problems formerly dealt with as nuisances. An increasing use has been made of powers under the Public Health Act 1961 which allows urgent repairs to be carried out in default without recourse to the tortuous and time consuming nuisance procedure.

In some cases where complaints of substantial disrepair have been received concerning fundamentally sound houses, Housing Act Notices have been served requiring repairs to an extent not possible by use of Public Health Act powers.

Blocked and defective drains continue to be a problem in the older parts of the Borough but a disturbing development has been an increasing number of complaints regarding drainage serving recently occupied residential developments.

Gypsies and Other Travellers

The site for 15 caravans has now been open for over 12 months. In terms of success of the site, this can be gauged from the fact that whenever a vacancy has occurred this has always been filled immediately. However, Designation remains outstanding and plans were passed during the year for the construction of a shower and laundry unit. This should be built in the early part of 1973.

Other desirable features sought by the residents include the provision of individual power supplies to vans and replacement of the ash surface of the site with at least some hard surfacing. These will receive sympathetic consideration but formal Designation of the site by the Department of the Environment is long overdue and is a bar to progress.

Animal By-products

The main plant in the Borough concerned with animal by-products is one which steam cooks poultry feathers into a high protein additive for animal feeding meal. As in all processes of this nature obnoxious odours are given off in cooking and drying, giving rise to complaints of smells in areas around the factory. In order that manufacturing could continue without giving rise to a nuisance, the company purchased a catalytic oxidiser plant to neutralise the obnoxious odours. This plant, for various reasons, during the first 12 months, failed on numerous occasions and exhaustive tests were carried out by the manufacturers as to why a 100% efficiency was not achieved.

This seemed to have been achieved in July of this year for since then complaints of smells in the surrounding areas have been infinitesimal. Various factors could have influenced this success. Processing of poultry offal has ceased and a stricter control was imposed on the release of pressure from the cookers prior to discharge of the contents so that the catalyst should not be overloaded. The total load on the plant has also been reduced and “housekeeping” improved.

It is to be hoped that the solution is permanent and that the residents in the surrounding areas will have an odour free atmosphere in future.

Pets and Domestic Animals

Regular inspections of premises and examinations of registers were made under the provisions of the Pet Animals Act 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1953 and the Riding Establishments Act 1964 and 1970. An interesting phenomena has been the virtual disappearance of pet shops as such, the majority of premises seeking registration to sell caged birds or fish only.

The number of premises licensed and in operation was as follows:—

Pet Animals	...	...	...	15
Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	3
Riding Establishments	...	...	...	2

Water Supply

Twenty chemical and 17 bacteriological examinations were made of water in addition to the regular examinations carried out by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and the City of Birmingham Water Department, the two undertakings providing mains supplies to the area.

Twenty six of the samples were taken from high rise flats as an investigation into the purity of supplies to such premises. Only one sample provided an unsatisfactory result and a more extensive re-examination of supplies to the block in question proved entirely satisfactory. Seven samples were submitted for analysis with special reference to the presence of lead and in each case levels were found to be completely safe.

Houses having Inadequate Supplies

The adequacy of supplies provided by common service pipes has continued to receive attention during the year. As the scope of the undertaking has widened, the time taken up in survey has become considerable and the paper work involved, unwieldy. In the future, work will proceed on blocks of houses in succession rather than whole streets at a time.

Areas of housing potentially subject to inadequate supplies are under review in the general survey commenced later in the year. Difficulties exist when an attempt is made to give a legal definition of such vague terms as “adequate” and “inadequate” water supply. The only relevant numerical standard is that given in the British Standard Code of Practice which details the minimum flow rate expected from a given size of pipe and all work so far carried out has been based on this standard.

Section 138(1a) of the Public Health Act 1936, however allows the local authority to take action only when the water supply is inadequate for the domestic needs of the inmates of the house. Situations can easily arise where in a block of houses served by a common supply one house is in multiple occupation for which usage the supply is grossly inadequate, while another is occupied by a lone old aged pensioner for whose needs the supply is quite sufficient. While the most

satisfactory long term solution to inadequate water supplies is to provide an improved common service to whole blocks of houses, inequalities of occupation and usage as illustrated above lead to legal and moral frustration.

To avoid such complication, great efforts are made to secure voluntary co-operation with landlords and owner/occupiers, this being encouraged by financial assistance in the form of loans, etc. Legal powers, which allow the work to be carried out in default, are only used as a last resort.

Statistically, the following results have been achieved during the year :—

Preliminary Notices served and number of premises involved	180
Statutory Notices served 	146
Supplies improved either in default or upon owners orders	115
Orders with contractors either in default or upon owners Orders	91
Premises in which investigation and survey have been completed	35
Premises under investigation and survey	250

Swimming Pools

Regular visits were made to both public baths and school pools during the year to take bacteriological samples and pool side readings of chlorine and pH. Standards continue to vary between the various pools and often between subsequent visits to the same pool. However, the overall picture is one of satisfactorily maintained levels of bacteriological purity and chemical condition of pool water.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933 and Medicines Act 1941

The number of shopkeepers registered with the Council for the sale of items under Part 2 of the Poisons List numbered 44 at 31st December, 1972.

Hairdressers and Barbers (Registration under West Bromwich Corporation Act 1969)

Records concerning establishments are in need of review and a survey has been started to gain accurate information on types and numbers of premises.

Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951

There is only one manufacturing premise within the Borough.

Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs

Two informal samples of fertiliser were submitted for analysis during the year.

Deposit of Poisonous Wastes Act 1972

This Act, the major part of which came into operation in August 1972, was hurried through Parliament as a result of public outcry following several cases of indiscriminate tipping of cyanide waste.

The Act has two major provisions. One is to place a prohibition on depositing poisonous and other dangerous waste on land where it is liable to give rise to an environmental hazard and to provide severe penalties for persons convicted of so doing.

The other is, to provide for a notification procedure whereby the Local Authority for the area from which toxic waste is being moved, the Local Authority for the area where the waste is deposited and the relevant river board must be given three clear days notice of the intention to remove the waste together with the details of its nature, composition, weight or volume. When the waste has been deposited these bodies must again be notified. This means that in general every load of toxic waste which is moved requires at least a total of six notifications and in practice this procedure is proving cumbersome. Notification is required before any waste material is deposited unless the material falls into one of the categories specifically exempted from notification by the Deposit of Poisonous Waste (Notification of Removal or Deposit Regulations) 1972. These regulations are so drafted that many types of waste not normally considered to be toxic, but which are given no specific exemption, now require notification.

Partly due to these complex procedures, many tips have refused to take materials which they could otherwise safely accept. This has placed an undue burden on remaining tipping space much of which would be better reserved for the reception of genuinely hazardous wastes. It is thought probable that the Regulations will be amended to give a more rigid definition of poisonous waste, leaving non hazardous materials free from this control.

The following table shows a typical months movement of toxic waste within the Borough and it is interesting to note that cyanide waste which was the “raison d’ être” of the Act is completely absent.

Part 1

Classification of quantities of toxic waste notified under the Act for removal from premises within the area or disposed to sites within the area for a representative consecutive 4 week period.

	Quantities removed from premises	Quantities disposed within area	Quantities disposed outside area
<u>1. Solid</u>			
a Cyanide	—	—	—
b Metallic and others	168 tons	4 tons	168 tons
c Asbestos	—	1 ton	—
d Pharmaceutical	—	—	—
<u>2. Acid Solutions and Sludges</u>			
a. Metallic	22,500 gals	23,700 gals	22,500 gals
b. Without metals	6,000 gals	—	6,000 gals
<u>3. Alkaline</u>			
a. Metallic	—	—	—
b. Without metals	6,000 gals	—	6,000 gals
<u>4. Neutral</u>			
a. Inorganic	20,500 gals	8,500 gals	18,500 gals
b. Organic	—	—	—
c. Mixed	—	120 gals	—
<u>5. Oily wastes</u>			
a. Mineral	8,650 gals	7,500 gals	8,350 gals
b. Fatty	—	10,400 gals	—
c. Oil/Water emulsions	13,700 gals	19,400 gals	11,500 gals
<u>6. Tarry Wastes</u>	—	—	—
<u>7. Solvents</u>			
a. Combustible	—	—	—
b. Non — combustible	125 gals	—	125 gals

Rodent and Pest Control

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Summary of Destruction of Rats and Mice : 1972

Properties other than Sewers	Non Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	65,284	13
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	2,653	—
(b) Number infested by (i) rats	1,990	1
(ii) mice	663	—
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	263	—
(b) Number infested by (i) rats	167	—
(ii) mice	96	—

During 1972, 2,916 treatments were carried out against rats and mice, and excluding secondary treatments, consisted of :—

Private & Council dwellings	...	...	...	1,801
Factories & Shops	...	...	...	1,115

Sewers

During the course of the year some 1,500 covers were lifted and treatment made. As in previous years the number of manholes affected remained at 1% or slightly less, and in no case was there any serious infestation.

Waste Land

Whilst there are still some areas where “Fly” tipping continues, the measures taken by the Council in conjunction with the Department of the Environment in the clearing, levelling and turfing of large areas of hitherto waste land, has greatly reduced the number of likely breeding grounds for rats and mice.

Rodent control in Factories

Contracts covering rodent and insect control now number 254, which include factories and shops. The close co-operation between rodent control and the public health inspectors has continued and as a result several measures have been enforced to prevent reinfestation occurring on the premises under contract.

Insects

During 1972 some 322 treatments were carried out, at factories shops and houses.

Cockroaches	...	...	163	Wasps	...	...	12
Bed Bugs	...	...	31	Bees	...	...	4
Flies	...	...	48	Crickets	...	...	1
Silver Fish	...	...	5	G.S. Beetles	...	...	5
Clover Mite	...	...	3	Ants	...	...	34
Moles	...	...	12	Stored products pests	...		1
Fleas	...	...	3				

CLEANSING AND SALVAGE

Refuse Collection

The residents of the Borough enjoyed the benefit of the first full year of the productivity scheme negotiated in 1971. All the collection rounds were completed 52 times during the year.

Bulky refuse, rubble and garden refuse was collected by the two special collection rounds instituted in 1971. Requests for this service exceeded 5,000 and emphasised the need. Only rubble and other building debris is rechargeable.

Refuse Storage

Six thousand plastic dustbins were issued under the municipal scheme. Although this was a 7% increase on the previous year, requests appeared to be fewer in the latter part of the year.

Ten additional Dempster containers of 8 and 10 cubic yards capacity were brought into use to meet demands for additional refuse storage capacity and replace unserviceable containers. Requests for this service increased by 11% and stretched the Department's resources in drivers and vehicles fitted with lifting equipment. A static packer was installed at Wednesbury market in December which compresses refuse by a ratio of 3—1. This reduced collection costs at the market by 50%. Seventy 1¼ cubic yard containers were put into service during the year, small companies and trading establishments accounted for the majority. The demand for refuse containers of higher capacities is a reflection of the rising volume and weight of refuse being generated from all sources.

Waste Paper

The demand for supplies of waste paper from the board mills is reviving and commercial and charitable organisations are collecting much more diligently and vigorously than for some time. This has adversely affected the amount available for the Corporation's collectors.

A systematic pilot scheme prepared jointly by the department, the workmen concerned and the representatives of the Thames Board Mills, our purchasers, has been prepared to come into operation in 1973. It is based on a special collection, separate from refuse, in which the householder is expected to place accumulated paper in a bag or parcel for collection from the kerbside or front of the house. This project could materially increase the weight of paper available for processing and re-use, improve the earnings of the collectors, add to the Corporation's income and, most important, delay the necessity for more frequent collections of total refuse.

There is no doubt that to remove waste paper from mixed refuse and return it to the paper mills for re-use will be beneficial in many ways but it remains to be seen whether the majority of householders can be persuaded to play their part regularly, and separate for collection, a worthwhile weight of paper.

Civic Amenities

Indiscriminate dumping of rubbish such as pianos, washing machines, mattresses, radio and T.V. sets, furniture and large toys is a national problem. Discarded household items and garden refuse are frequently dumped after dark in hedgerows, on demolition sites or on undeveloped land.

We have provided and publicised a special free collection service to meet the needs of householders and there are two sites at Black Lake and Sheepwash Lane, where residents can take unwanted items at any time, again, without charge; but refuse is still dumped regardless of disfigurement of the Borough and the cost of removing it.

Some forty sites throughout the Borough have been cleared of accumulations of rubbish and are now regularly patrolled. Generally, where small sites have been soiled and seeded by the Parks Department, the site is no longer used as a regular dump. Forge Lane and Park Lane are particularly troublesome areas where up to two tons of rubbish are removed at a time from the West Bromwich side of the boundary.

Vehicles and Equipment

Three additional Revopak refuse collection vehicles and one

Dennis Dempster Dumpster were put into service. These were all replacement vehicles. Two Pakamatics were kept in service beyond their normal time to enable plating and testing schedules of all vehicles to be maintained. Refuse collection vehicles were exempt from Plating and Testing Regulations before April 1972.

In December, a vehicle cleansing centre for animal transporters was set up at the request of the Meat Hygiene Section because of the outbreak of swine vesicular disease. All vehicles were washed, steam cleansed and disinfected and a rate of 35 vehicles in one day was achieved.

Mobile Plant

- 1 977K Caterpillar tractor
- 1 D6 Caterpillar Bulldozer
- 1 944A Caterpillar Shovel

Static Plant

- 1 Brick Crusher
- 1 Lister Tug
- 1 Shirtliff Paper Press
- 1 Morimil Helmond Heavy Duty Metal Press
- 1 2 ton Demag Electric Hoist

Road Vehicles

- 5 – 50 cubic yards Revopak
- 9 – 50 cubic yard Pakamatics
- 4 – 35 cubic yard Pakamatics
- 10 – 18/20 Fore and Aft Tippers
- 5 – 18/20 Fore and Aft Tippers with bulk loading attachments
- 1 – 3 ton open truck
- 1 – 7 ton open truck
- 3 – Dempster Dumpster on Bedford Chassis
- 1 – Dempster Dumpster on BMC Chassis
- 2 – Dempster Dumpster on Ford Chassis
- 1 – Eagle Compressload 3 on Ford Chassis
- 1 – Short Wheel base Land/Rover
- 7 – 20/40 cwt salvage vans
- 3 – 5 cwt. vans – for Cleansing Inspectors

Road Vehicles — Continued

- 1 — Ford Transit van for public conveniences
- 1 — 2 ton vehicle trailer
- 19 — salvage trailers
- 1 — Fire Engine (Dennis)

Public Conveniences

A three year cycle of painting and decorating all conveniences was started in the middle of the year and the public works department will carry out the work in accordance with an agreed programme.

In December the Sandwell Centre conveniences were opened and attended from mid-day on Sunday to 10.0 p.m. on a trial basis, following a request from the Manager of the Centre. This has now been made permanent.

	W.C. ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED	
	Male	Female
Library, High Street, West Bromwich	3	—
Dartmouth Square	3	5
All Saints	3	4
Hill Top	3	4
Stone Cross	3	4
Carters Green	4	6
Birmingham Road	4	6
Gregory Street	2	4
Lower High Street, Wednesbury	4	4
Shambles, Wednesbury	3	3
Great Bridge, Tipton	3	2
Victoria Park	3	3
Coronation Gardens	2	3
Cemetery (Tipton)	2	3
Princes End	—	1
Sandwell Centre	3	3
Scott Arms	2	2

Disposal of Refuse

A new disposal site was opened at Tibbington Terrace, Princes End, in April. By the end of the year all trade refuse was being disposed of at this site. This enabled the Sheepwash Lane site to be consolidated in order that final levels could be attained on that part which is near to full capacity.

Some 120,000 tons (est.) of trade waste was received during the year in addition to 30,000 tons (est.) of domestic refuse.

The total tonnage of waste materials salvaged during the year and the income received is as follows :—

	Tons	£
Wastepaper (various grades)	1509.76	17651
Baled Ferrous Scrap	69.30	379
Abandoned Cars (117)		302
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1579.06	18332
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total salvage collected and income received from 1969 :—

	Tons	£
1969	2111	19378
1970	1555	17330
1971	1733	19590
1972	1579	18332

MONTHLY STATISTICS OF TIME LOST DUE TO SICKNESS – ACCIDENT – CASUAL ABSENCE 1972

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JLY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
(a) Sick / Accident	373	387	366	236	213	276	340	265	301	291	292	229
(b) Casual Absence	54	44	52	43	14	28	28	36	44	32	24	70
Average Strength	165	164	165	162	163	163	166	164	165	164	163	162
No. of working days	21	21	23	18	21	22	21	21	21	22	22	19
Possible No. of working days	3465	3444	3795	2916	3402	3586	3486	3444	3465	3630	3586	3078
% Loss Sick	10.76	11.23	9.64	8.09	6.26	7.13	9.75	7.69	8.26	8.01	8.14	7.43
% Loss Casual Absence	1.56	1.27	1.10	1.47	0.41	0.72	0.80	1.04	1.27	0.88	0.66	2.27
% Total Loss	12.32	12.50	10.74	9.56	6.67	7.85	10.55	8.73	9.53	8.89	8.80	9.70

Average Monthly Loss %	1969	1970	1971	1972
Sickness and Accidents	9.57	9.14	6.46	8.53
Casual absence	1.62	0.55	0.73	1.12

